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### BRITISH ASSOCIATION.

#### SIXTH MEETING: BRISTOL.

HAVING established head-quarters at the roomy and pleasant Gloucester Hotel, Clifton, we proceed, as has been our usage, to present our readers with a description of the Meeting of the British Association; blending, for the sake of general interest, such matters of remark, traits of character, and anecdotes incidental to or connected with it (though neither learned nor scientific), as appear to us to be worthy of notice, with the proceedings of science which we can ascertain, during the bustle and variety of their claims to our attention. We have employed the words "learned" and "scientific" in the foregoing passage; but we may observe that these meetings are almost so entirely confined to leading branches which come under the latter denomination, that—albeit there are, among the members, men distinguished for attainments in the former—they can scarcely be said to offer a single literary feature in their whole construction: on the contrary, they often seem to shew how much science and its pursuits may exist without the wider grasp of mind, intelligence, and more universal information, which belong to the literary character. With very few exceptions, it appears to be literally true that

"One science only does one genius fit."

#### SATURDAY, AUGUST 20TH.

During the forenoon, which was wet and inconvenient, the Grammar School, by College Green, was tolerably thronged with members passing through the necessary forms and procuring their tickets, &c., and with candidates for admission taking a similar course. Owing to the previous arrangements, made by Professor Phillips, the secretary, during ten days or a fortnight's previous residence, assisted by Dr. Daubeny and Mr. Hovenden, the secretaries for Bristol, together with the local committee, this commencement of business was conducted with great regularity and without confusion, so that several hundred members were enrolled, and instructed in the programme for the ensuing week. Soon after 12 o'clock, the council having assembled before to prepare the measures to be submitted to it, the general committee met in the chapter-house of the cathedral. About eighty persons, with Mr. Whewell in the chair, constituted this body, by which the future proceedings were discussed, the officers to preside over the different sections were chosen, the members of these sections named, and all other preliminary affairs settled, with the exception of such as circumstances prevented from completion, which were referred to the council. Of these, the most important related to the substitution of a President, in the room of the Marquess of Lansdowne, from whom a letter was read, expressing his great regret at being compelled, by the serious illness of his eldest son, the Earl of Kerry, to absent himself from a meeting at which he had long promised himself much gratification in having the honour to preside. An express had been despatched to the Marquess of Northampton, soliciting that excellent and accomplished nobleman, who had for years

gone along with the Association in its progress, to allow himself to be elected a Vice-president, and take the chair on this urgent occasion. His reply on Monday would, consequently, regulate the rest of the needful alterations.

At half-past two o'clock the committee adjourned, leaving the chapter-house (a most beautiful specimen of Saxon architecture, the round arch with the zig-zag ornament), for the meetings of the section for Statistics. On this spot the spectator is struck by the ruins of the late bishop's palace, burnt by the mob in the time of the learned and worthy Dr. Gray, and by the blackened marks of the fire upon the adjoining buttresses and other parts of the cathedral.

Having mentioned the appointment of the sections, we will here repeat them, and beg leave to offer a few observations on their nature and objects, as well as some more extended effects produced by the British Association.

At Bristol there are seven sections:—1. Mathematics and Physics; 2. Chemistry and Mineralogy; 3. Geology and Geography; 4. Zoology and Botany; 5. Medicine; 6. Statistics; and 7. Mechanics. At Dublin there were—1. Mathematics and Physics; 2. Chemistry and Mineralogy; 3. Geology and Geography; 4. Natural History; 5. Medicine; 6. Statistics.

If we look at these divisions, it will be evident that they may all be requisite, yet that much more may be expected from some than from others. Thus, in *Mathematics* we can hardly anticipate any novelty of value, though the department of *Physics* is likely to be more prolific. In *Chemistry*, some discoveries, though none of high importance, may come out. *Geology*, being the youngest of the sciences, and, consequently, opening a wider field for investigation and speculation, will naturally, as heretofore, occupy a prominent position at the meeting. In 1836, it may truly be said of it, that the difference of the scratching of a pin's point is more than all that exists between the knowledge of our Sedgwick, Greenoughs, Murchisons, Bucklands, Lyells, Delabèches, &c., &c., and that possessed in the time of Moses. *Zoology* and *Botany* are always sure of exciting popular interest; and *Medicine*, to occupy the profession with inquiries and differences of opinion, chiefly such as have already attracted attention in medical publications. *Statistics*, like *Geology*, being in infancy as a regular science, must be diffusive, and almost without practical bearings and useful applicability. Employed as yet in collecting data, its numerous students (if they can be so called) have all the world before them where to choose; and their collections involve a multitude of trifles and a mass of rubbish, of which it is very difficult to foresee that they can by possibility lead to any beneficial result. Some of them, indeed, seem to be as ridiculous as the merest follies imputed to antiquarian research; and others, to have such various moral and other grounds, complicated with their more purely statistical calculations, as to defy legitimate conclusions on the single and insulated points they are adduced to illustrate. Still, if limited to obvi-

ously valuable ends, and pursued on rational principles, not diverging into idle hypotheses, the study of Statistics is one of primary consequence to civilised society. It requires only judicious regulation, and the banishment of topics which can so readily be undertaken by weak-minded individuals, who have unfortunately nothing else of the name of science (except Phrenology, perhaps,) wherein they could make a figure. *Mechanics* is the opposite to the questionable scientific pursuits, and has deservedly risen into eminence at these meetings. Its main objection may be repetition: we have had, year after year, the same things over again, and probably nothing new of much worth; but still all that does ooze out, can be applied to inventions which are daily adding to the comforts and pleasures of mankind, and, in a certain sense, may be said to prolong our lives by many years, seeing that they enable us to travel far and near within short periods, and examine hundreds of things hitherto and otherwise inaccessible to human powers of locomotion. Steam and Railroads are the mechanic gods who

"Annihilate both space and time!"

and, it may be, among other agreeable results, to

"Make lovers happy."

When the British Association was projected, and, in some of the most enthusiastic speeches delivered at the ensuing meetings, very extraordinary changes were predicated from its operation upon the societies already established in the metropolis, and upon science generally throughout the country. These have not been realised; and, in fact, very little, if any, perceptible alteration has been caused. The London Institutions have not been either wiser or duller than before: the only change we have noticed in them has been, that like Cross or Pidcock's menageries, after exhibiting during the winter in town, they have despatched the leading animals into the country, there to be shewn for the public amusement and instruction. We rejoice to observe that the Caravans now at Bristol promise fairly in both respects; and, provided the turtle and other feeding be satisfactory, we have no doubt they will perform even more than the promise.

On the provinces the effects have been but little more obvious, principally, we think, from an error in the general conduct of the proceedings. We allude to their not having been searching enough to elicit local information and talent. It is true, that a philosopher or savant of the great scene, the *Lions* of London, Oxford, Cambridge, Edinburgh, or Dublin, are likely to possess greater intelligence on a variety of subjects than the provincial labourer in remote and limited spheres; but we are of opinion that it would be well at these re-unions to look out for the *Lions* of the spot, and extract from them the amount of their experience and information. In one neighbourhood there are mines of wonderful depth and antiquity; in another, the aurora is frequently visible; in a third, mighty manufactures flourish, through chemistry, mechanics, and machinery; in a fourth, organic remains are life and

remarkable,\* and so on throughout the whole and every where; and, therefore, instead of being always the teachers, we should like, occasionally, to be the taught; and, notwithstanding the difficulties in the way of procuring this sort of light, we would respectfully suggest that, with some pains-taking at least, a few of the scattered rays might be concentrated for the common advantage. By being made active participants in the advancement of science, a strong impulse would be given to local improvement; and the one great annual Circle of the Association would generate a series of other lesser concentric circles throughout the kingdom, which would be perpetually in motion and lasting.

The actual benefits which have been conferred on science by the Association are those which Professor Sedgwick has, more than once, eloquently described. The yearly congregation of men of various classes and opinions, but all desirous to promote the common interest, cements a friendly intercourse at once beautiful and advantageous. Asperities are rubbed off; a valuable example of union and social kindness is set; strangers see men of high influence and station, whom they know to be strongly opposed in other relations of life, acting together with amenity for a general benefit, and the example is not lost upon the community at large; a good understanding is created and kept up with the wise and eminent of foreign countries; and, in truth, there are so many things to recommend these Meetings to favour, that it is unnecessary to praise them for what they have not means or power to accomplish. In regard to science, we would say, that their best effects are rather negative than positive; and, if they do not elicit great truths and discoveries, it cannot be denied that they prevent the private and secret cherishing of much error; reclaim wanderers from wrong roads in which, but for these collisions, they would probably wander to the end of their lives; and dissipate a number of bubbles which burst before the searching sense of the able individuals to whom they are exhibited as marvellous inventions.

SUNDAY, 21st.

A day of rest, and one happily fitted for innocent recreation also; for it was sweet and balmy, and multitudes were enjoying the loveliness of nature and the consenting harmony of the heavens.

MONDAY, 22d.

The influx of visitors continued throughout the day: and in the morning, the room where new members were admitted and inquiries answered, was crowded with business. Thanks, however, to the preceding measures, and the work of Saturday, every matter was got through in an orderly manner.

At eleven o'clock the Sections met, and immediately proceeded to their various tasks under the following auspices:—

**Section A.—Mathematical and Physical Science.**  
President—Rev. W. Whewell; Vice-Presidents—Sir D. Brewster; Sir W. R. Hamilton; Secretaries—Prof. Forbes; W. S. Harris, Esq.; F. W. Jerrard, Esq.; Committee—C. Babage, Esq., F.R.S.; F. Baily, Esq.; Prof. James Challis; Prof. Forbes; Robert W. Fox, Esq.; William Fend, Esq.; William Snow Harris, Esq.; G. Jerrard, Esq.; Rev. Dr. Lloyd, Provost of Trinity College; Prof. Moll; Rev. G. Peacock; Prof. Rigaud; John Robinson, Esq.; Prof. Stevelly; H. T. Talbot, Esq.; Prof. Wheatstone.

**Section B.—Chemistry and Mineralogy.**  
President—Rev. Prof. Cumming; Vice-Presidents—Dr. Dalton; Dr. Henry; Secretaries—Dr. Apjohn; Dr. C.

\* We understand that M. Delabèche's discoveries of organic remains in Cornwall, where he is making an admirable Geographical and Geological Survey for the Ordnance mapping of that county, is utterly opposed to the theory maintained by Sedgwick, Murchison, and that school.

Henry; W. Herapath, Esq.; Committee—Dr. Barker; Prof. Daubeny; Rev. W. Vernon Harcourt; Prof. Hare; Prof. Johnston; Prof. Miller; Richard Phillips, Esq.; Dr. Roget; Dr. Turner; William West.

**Section C.—Geology and Geography.**  
President—Rev. Dr. Buckland; Vice-Presidents—R. Griffith, Esq.; G. B. Greenough, Esq.; (for Geography) R. J. Murchison, Esq.; Secretaries—W. Sanders, Esq.; S. Sutchbury, Esq.; T. J. Torrie, Esq.; (for Geography) F. Harrison Rankin, Esq.; Committee—H. T. Delabèche, Esq.; M. Van Breda; —Carne, Esq. Penzance; Major Clerk; Lord Cole; Rev. William Conybeare; R. Griffith, Esq.; Rev. William Hopkins; Sir George Mackenzie; M. Van der Meulen; Prof. Parigot; Prof. Phillips; Prof. Sedgwick; William Smith, Esq.; John Taylor, Esq.; Samuel Worsley, Esq.

**Section D.—Zoology and Botany.**  
President—Prof. Henslow; Vice-Presidents—Rev. F. W. Hope; Dr. I. Richardson; Prof. Royle; Secretaries—John Curtis, Esq.; Prof. Don; Dr. Riley; S. Rootsey, Esq.; Committee—C. Babington, Esq.; J. E. Bowman, Esq.; —Eyton, Esq.; Hon. Charles Harris; Rev. Mr. Jenyns; T. Mackay, Esq.; Rev. Mr. Phelps; Richard Taylor, Esq.; Prof. Wilson; William Yarrell, Esq.

**Section E.—Medical Science.**  
President—Dr. Roget; Vice-Presidents—Dr. Bright; Dr. Macartney; Secretary—Dr. Symonds; Committee—Dr. Bernard; Dr. James Bernard; S. D. Broughton, Esq.; Bracey Clarke, Esq.; H. Daniel, Esq.; George D. Fripp, Esq.; Dr. Marshall Hall; G. Hedding, Esq.; Dr. Hodgkin; Dr. Houston; Dr. Howell; Dr. James Johnson; —Keate, Esq.; —King, Esq.; Dr. Prichard; Dr. Riley; Richard Smith, Esq.; —Swayne, Esq.

**Section F.—Statistics.**  
President—Sir Charles Lemon, Bart.; Vice-Presidents—H. Hallam, Esq.; Dr. Jerrard; Secretaries—Rev. J. E. Bromby; C. B. Fripp, Esq.; James Heywood, Esq.; Committee—J. W. Cowell, Esq.; M. Dupin; Lord King; M. Von Haumer; Rev. E. Stanley; Colonel Sykes; Dr. Taylor; Henry Woodcombe, Esq.

**Section G.—Mechanical Science.**  
President—Davies Gilbert, Esq.; Vice-Presidents—M. I. Brunel, Esq.; John Robinson, Esq.; Secretaries—T. G. Bunt, Esq.; G. T. Clark, Esq.; William West, Esq.; Committee—Captain Chapman; G. Cubitt, Esq.; J. S. Eans, Esq.; William Hawkes, Esq.; E. Hodgkinson, Esq.; Dr. Lardner; Prof. Mosely; M. Le Play; Sir John Rennie; George Rennie, Esq.; John Taylor, Esq.; Rev. W. Taylor.

To several of these, additions were made as parties arrived, whom it was complimentary to honour by such elections: among them the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Dr. Bowring, Mr. Wyse, and several members of parliament.

By the list published on Monday morning, it appeared that 551 residents in and about Bristol had been enrolled Members of the Association; consisting of persons of all classes, and as it appeared afterwards at the dinner and evening meetings, well adapted to give the whole a very miscellaneous character. The list of members not residing at Bristol amounted to 252; making a total of 803 enrolled previous to the day of meeting.

The Marquess of Northampton having complied with the request of the Council, arrived in time to assume the office of President; and such of our readers as remember the report of the proceedings at Cambridge, three years ago, in the *Literary Gazette*, will be prepared to expect that this was a fortunate thing for the scientific, well-doing, and popular *clat*, of the British Assembly. Not only the rank of the noble marquess, but his great attainments and cultivated mind, his attachment to literature and science, and the ease and elegance of his public speaking, mark him pre-eminently among the ranks of our peerage for the most efficient performance of a task of this description.

Passing over for the present the business transacted in the Sectional meetings of the day, we shall finish our account of its incidental circumstances. As, on one hand, the phalanx of Philosophers, &c., go to the appointed places where they can be seen and inspected by the inhabitants, male and female; so, in return, the natives kindly expose to their inspection, whatever they deem to be curious enough to merit their notice. A summary of the items is

characteristic of the localities; and now, as a hundred years hence, may be read with interest as indicative of the pursuits and habits of each. Thus, in our first congress in a commercial city, without collegiate institutions, with a bishop's palace in ruins, with quays redundant of trade and shipping, with wealthy manufactures, with a picturesque vicinity, with ancient domestic architecture, intermingled with immense modern warehouses, and with many peculiar features depending on old importance and recent changes, it is worth while to preserve the memorabilia of the era, as contained in the

"List of Places and Objects to which Members of the British Association will be admitted on presenting their Tickets," which are as follow:—

**Institutions.**—Philosophical and Literary, Park Street; Infirmary, attached to which is Mr. Richard Smith's Museum, Marlborough Street; General Hospital, Guinea Street; Blind Asylum, Lower Maundlin Lane; Bristol Library, King Street; Library, Baptist College, Stoke's Croft; Medical Library, Orchard Street; Commercial Rooms, Corn Street.

**Churches.**—Cathedral, College Green; Mayor's Chapel, ditto; St. Mary Redcliff, Redcliff Street; Crypt of St. Nicholas, St. Nicholas Street.

**Paintings and Pictures.**—P. J. Miles, Esq., Leigh Court; D. W. Acraman, Esq., 1 Lower Crescent; Bristol Artists, at Mr. Davey's, Broad Street.

**Gardens, &c.**—Mr. Miller's, Durham Down; Mr. West's Observatory, Clifton Down; Zoological.

**Manufactories.**—Coal Gas Works, St. Philip's; Oil Gas Works, Cannon's Marsh; Messrs. Acraman's Chain Cable and Anchor Manufactory and Iron Foundry, Bathurst Basin; Messrs. Acraman's Bristol Scrap Iron Forge and Steam Engine Manufactory, St. Philip's; Messrs. Winwood's Iron Foundry and Steam Engine Manufactory, Cheese Lane; Messrs. Hares' Floor Cloth Manufactory, Temple Gate; Messrs. Savages' Sugar Refinery, Wilder Street; Messrs. Holden and Vining's ditto, Stone Bridge; Messrs. Rickett's and Co.'s Glass Works, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, Temple Street; Ditto Glass Bottle Works, every morning before 12 o'clock, Avon Street, St. Philip's; Messrs. Gwyers' Rope, Twine, and Flax, Temple Gate; Messrs. Edwards' ditto, ditto, Cheese Lane; Messrs. George and Co.'s Patent Shot, Redcliff Hill; Messrs. Cook, Thatcher, and Co.'s Patent Rope, Cannon's Marsh; Messrs. Alfred, George, and Co.'s Porter Brewery, Bath Street; Messrs. Lucas's Confectionery, Redcliff Street; Messrs. Washbrough and Hale's Clock and Brass Manufactory, Narrow Wine Street; Messrs. Edgars' Copper Manufactory, Bath Street; Messrs. Pounney and Goldney's Pottery, Temple Back; Messrs. Bevan's Machine Paper Factory, Bilton.

**Ancient Buildings.**—The Printing Establishment of the Bristol Mirror, 20 Small Street.

**Ship-Building Yards.**—Messrs. Hillhouse and Co.'s, Cumberland Road; Messrs. Patterson and Mercer, Wapping.

**Tea Warehouse.**—Messrs. Acraman's, Quay.

Besides the foregoing, invitations were politely given to Mr. Johnson's Collection of Organic Remains; Dorset Park; Horticultural Show, on Monday next, Horticultural Rooms; the Rev. Mr. Ellicombe's Collection of Hardy Plants, Bilton Vicarage, Upper Bath Road. Mr. Pocock exhibits his kite carriages daily upon Durham Down. A kite, with a signal flying over Bristol, indicating the time.

Excursions in steamers, and by boats, are also projected towards the end of the week, for geological and engineering inspections of interesting points and works in the neighbourhood.

The first arrangement, however, unconnected with the sciences, unless gastronomy be recognised among the number, viz. the Ordinary Dinner in the Horticultural Garden, was a sad mess. After waiting nearly an hour beyond the appointed time (five o'clock), pent up most unpleasantly under a covered passage, the crowd was let in to the tent-like saloon, which was speedily filled by four or five hundred *tried* philosophers. The process of setting down the dishes being completed, the covers were removed, and a miserable supply of indifferent meats, indifferently cooked, was offered to the eye of the connoisseur, who had disbursed his crown for the treat. The turtle, of which they had promised themselves such abundance in Bristol, famous for that commendable viand, "was not;" and it was only consoled to learn, amid such a scarcity of every thing eatable, that there was not a single ounce of it in the city: except Mrs. Elizabeth

Turtle, of the Full Moon, Frog Lane, were dressed and weighed to make up the *modicum*. The whole affair, of necessity, went off very badly: some excessively offensive parts of ribs and rafters of poor venison satisfied the nose, the mouth being still in arrears, and as eight o'clock was the time appointed for the representations at the theatre, the company began to move off in a drizzling rain, about an hour after they had sat down in expectation of dining.\*

The state of things at the theatre proved that had might be succeeded by worse. There seemed to be no arrangements, except such as were calculated to create inconvenience and absolute danger. The crush for entrance was worse than we ever witnessed among pit-ites and gallerians, on any occasion, at Drury Lane or Covent Garden. The Bristol ladies bore it well; but still some of them were sadly mauled and torn. The passages were narrow, and, to increase their compressiveness, there was every here and there a door shut, or half a double door kept open. At last the moistened multitude filled the area, so closely compressed as would delight a dramatic manager, and the stage was occupied as a platform, not only by the officers of the Association, but by ladies and others driven by the common distress from other parts of the house. It was a motley, and unphilosophical, and unscientific affair; but, when all was over, it must be acknowledged, that the *Savans* made the best of it, and the sufferers did quite as well as could be expected.

These remarks may appear to be trivial where so much of science is concerned; but, in truth, they involve the future existence and utility of the British Association. Hitherto, with some errors, inconveniences, and misallocations, there have always been strong social attractions to draw together the men of talent and genius who have given consequence to the Institution. Put an end to these, and even the vainest of second or third-rate aspirants would cease to attend the meetings. The accession of too large and unmanageable numbers has been felt as an evil, where the best directed exertions were liberally combined with every concomitant facility and "appliance to boot;" and when the massing becomes still more open and incongruous, it must increase the difficulty of any small proportion of the yeast of science being made apparent to leaven the huge loaf of Association. At Bristol, where already some six hundred inhabitants of all denominations and lines of life have, *pro hac vice*, and a pound sterling a-piece, been converted into Members "for the advancement of Science," the result is conspicuous. They all want to see, hear, and be near the distinguished persons to whose confraternity they now belong; and so do their mothers, wives, aunts, cousins, and other female relations. A Roman amphitheatre would not suffice for this indulgence. And what can be managed in small halls and not very extensive theatres? Confusion and disappointment certainly ensue.

Again, the Association has, for the first time in its course, experienced what is likely to be, more or less, the anomalous result of a commixture of quiet science with active commerce. We do not depreciate the vast importance of the latter when we speak of its very different habits and manners. Trade is not essentially vulgar; but its very essences are opposed to

the modes, at least, engendered by the finer cultivation of intellect. The one is of the noisy mart; the other of the quiet closet. The one struggles in the face of the bustling world; the other retires and conceals himself from it. If the ambition of the philosopher be as strong in impelling him to be the foremost in discovery, he yet labours in private; not so the merchant and man of business,—he must be first at the land pier, the dock, the custom-house, the exchange, the auction-room: his life is a life of rough and rude competition; and when, by such a chance as the present, he comes into contact with the former class, he is found (with few exceptions) to be the same pushing, struggling, thrusting-aside, *dolce far niente*-defying creature, who, come how it may, must be first, if he possibly can.

Similar observations will probably apply to what may seem to be a diminution of great and hospitable entertainments as the Association continues its circle. Where it has hitherto been there have existed richly endowed institutions to welcome it; and, more than that, they were institutions of like pursuits and feelings. Between a man of university education there is a sort of free-masonry connexion with all other men educated in the same way all over the world. But, independently of the embarrassing augmentation of numbers, which is in itself enough not to limit but to diverge hospitality into less perceptible bounds, there is so much less in common between the scientific and mercantile classes, and, in consequence, so much less of personal acquaintance or knowledge of each other, that it is not to be wondered at, if at Bristol there shall have been fewer visitors, as we may say, at home, or rather *fêted*, than at any other place yet invaded by our "philosophy."

Having thus given our readers a Bird's-eye view, and we hope more than an Owl's reflections on the general subject, and the impression made by the opening day, we shall proceed to discuss the regular proceedings.

We now, as far as we can, take up the Proceedings in something like order, though the interruption of some papers, the continuation yet to come of others, and the difficulty of collecting the whole in a regular series, must be our apology for blanks to fill up, brevities to be elongated, where the subjects are of importance, and omissions to be remedied, we hope, hereafter.

**Section A: Mathematics and Physics**, of course, takes precedence. On Monday, Sir D. Brewster detailed the difficulties which had occurred to prevent his carrying into effect his promised experiments with a lens of rock-salt. He had at last been enabled to procure the material, in large masses, from Cheshire, of sufficient transparency and homogeneity, and expected soon to have it reduced to form, which would put it in his power to furnish a regular report to the Association.

Mr. Baily reserved a communication on the Reduction of Observations on Stars.

Mr. Lubbock read a paper of much interest, connected with the proceedings of nearly all the meetings of the Association, on the Investigation of Tides. The general inference was to confirm Bernoulli's theory of equilibrium.

Mr. Whewell reported the *no-progress* of the committee on the relative levels of land and sea. Another committee was proposed to be appointed, with instructions, 1. To strike level lines for considerable distances along the land, as, for example, from Bristol to Ilfracombe, and from Bristol to Lyme Regis, with great

accuracy; the permanence of these two lines (independently of reference to the sea) would determine the permanence of the relative level of the points. 2. To refer the extremities of these lines to the sea at each extremity; the tides at the extremities being of any different amount, the observations would decide whether a level line agrees with low water, mean water, or high water; and, thus, what is the true level of the sea.

Mr. Lubbock read a paper on the importance of forming new empirical tables for finding the moon's place; since astronomers desired to reach, by calculation and theory, a higher degree of accuracy than the astronomical tables hitherto produced, such as that obtained by the best instruments in fixed observatories. On this subject, he observed, that M. Plana's work constitutes a new era, as the results are developed according to the powers of the eccentricities, inclinations, &c., though there was still a great difficulty, from the circumstance that the expression for the coefficients do not converge. Mr. Lubbock, from these and other considerations, suggests the importance of deducing the numerical values empirically from the best observations, and so construct new lunar tables, which may serve to check the results obtained by theory.

Sir W. Hamilton commented upon Mr. Jerrard's (of Bristol) process for resolving equations of the fifth and sixth degrees; which, we firmly believe, nobody understood—at least we did not—and so, *omne ignotum, the "rest is stale."* We may here observe, that as far as the meeting has yet gone (and we speak of Wednesday night) there has been generally a delusive want of firmness in the reports and complimentary discussions in characterising failures and empiricism when they have been obtruded on the sections. Civility and politeness are to be respected; but if the great object to be achieved be *truth*, it is a gross mistake to slur over and even eulogise the attempts of vanity, ignorance, and charlatany.

Professor Phillips detailed the means taken by the Association for the purpose of procuring regular and uniform experiments on subterranean temperature. The errors incidental to observations made in the air or water of mines, had induced them to recommend observers to attend simply to the temperature of the rocks themselves; with this view, thirty-six thermometers had been duly compared, and their errors ascertained: many of these had been placed in secret situations, at the lead hills, by Professor Forbes; at Newcastle, by Mr. Buddle; at Wearmouth, by Mr. Anderson; near Manchester and at Northampton, by Mr. Hodgkinson. Within a few days, Professor Phillips had placed thermometers in a colliery at Bedminster, near Bristol; and the general results confirm the alleged increase of temperature beneath the surface. In one instance the instrument stood at seventy-eight degrees constantly, whilst the mean temperature of the air above was forty-seven degrees.

Mr. Craig read a paper on polarisation, with a view to show that the phenomena are referable to the division, and, consequently, to the weakening of the impulse of light; and the inability, therefore, to pass through other regular structures without exhibiting phenomena which arise out of the peculiarities of such structures.

Professor Baden Powell read "Observations for determining the refractive indices for the standard rays of the polar spectrum in various media; a subject, it will be recollected, to which he has for years directed his atten-

\* By Wednesday, at dinner time, some "Lively" was obtained from London; and, though rather late in the week, it might be seen, from the brightened countenances of the *amateurs*, that something agreeable had taken place.



tion. In his introduction, the learned Savilian professor says:—

"The determination of the refractive indices for definite rays of the solar spectrum marked by the dark lines, from the direct observation of their deviations produced by prisms of different substances, first proposed and executed by Fraunhofer, for ten media solid and liquid, was carried on by M. Rudberg for ten more cases. The necessity for an extended series of such determinations was pointed out and strongly insisted on by Sir J. Herschel, as well as by Sir D. Brewster; and was further urged by a special recommendation from the British Association. (Third Report, p. 319.) Not being able to learn that any thing has been done towards supplying the deficiency in other quarters, I have taken up the inquiry; and the following tabular statements contain the results of observations in which I have attempted to ascertain the refractive indices belonging to each of the standard primary rays for various media: comprising, in the present instance, the only highly dispersive substances I have been as yet able to procure in a condition capable of prismatic observation; together with some other liquids of different natures: this being a first contribution only towards a series of such determinations, which I hope to continue."

Having described his instruments, and his mode of using them, Mr. Powell says:—

"I have found the greatest differences due to the influence of heat. I have, consequently, observed carefully in each instance the temperature of the medium by a thermometer having its bulb immersed in the liquid during the time of observation."

"An inspection," he continues, "of the few cases in which I have made observations on the same substance at different temperatures, will give some idea of these changes. But, in the present state of our knowledge, we cannot assume any principle on which to attempt reductions: though within small limits, the mean of the different observations may probably be taken as corresponding to the mean temperature."

We regret that the forms of the tables prevent us from explaining the observations in an intelligible manner. Oil of Cassia, Oil of Aniseed, Sulphuret of Carbon, Balsam of Peru, Kræcotite; Oils of Sassafras, Pimento, Cummin, and Angelica; Sulphuric, Muriatic, and Nitric Acids; Alcohol, and various solutions were the media employed; and it seems to us that a valuable foundation has been laid by the experiments for *enlightening* the philosophical world in this high and difficult inquiry.

#### Chemistry and Mineralogy. (B)

The first paper read was on the Phosphate of Soda, and consisted merely of chemical details. Mr. Ettrick produced and explained an improved blow-pipe; and Mr. Hare, of Philadelphia, a somewhat similar apparatus. [There seemed to be a bit of a clash about priority of invention.]

Mr. W. Herapath gave an analysis of the Bath waters, and furnished the components. Some differences of opinion arose on the subject.

The disappointment of promised papers led to the rest of this section's proceedings, being "to fill up time;" though it was done amusingly by a debate about the aurora borealis—a repetition, nearly, of opinions delivered at Cambridge in 1833. Mr. Herapath's theory is, that the light proceeds from electricity given off by *circa-mundane* clouds, which Dr. Dalton utterly opposes.

#### Geology and Geography. (C)

Mr. Charlesworth, apparently a very young geologist, read a paper evincing much talent and geological labour, on "The vertebrated animals in the crag." His principal object was to establish the fact of the remains of mammiferous animals being associated with the mollusca of the tertiary beds above the London clay, in the eastern counties of England. These remains are confined to a part of the crag formation which appears to extend from Cromer, in Norfolk, to within a few miles of Aldborough, in Suffolk.

The bones of fish and a large portion of the testacea that are met with in the stratum, differ widely from those of the coralline beds, and from that part of the crag deposit which skirts the southern coast of Essex and Suffolk. Among the mammalia which the author states really belong to the crag, is the *Mastodon angustidens*, of which several teeth have recently been obtained in Norfolk, from localities adjoining the parish of Withingham, the spot from which D. W. Smith states the specimen to have been procured which is figured in his "Strata Identified." The remaining genera of mammiferous animals can be identified with those now existing, or with such as are found in diluvial and lacustrine deposits. The author next notices the discovery of the mineralised remains of birds, which he has obtained from several localities in the crag district. Among the fish, the most remarkable is the *Carcharias megalodon*, the teeth of which are found in Suffolk, equal in size to specimens from the tertiary formations of Malta. No traces of the existence of reptilia have yet been detected in the crag, which would rather support the opinion of Dr. Beck and Deshayes, that the climate during the crag epoch was analogous to that of the Polar regions.

Mr. Charlesworth particularly called attention to the fossil remains of birds, of which specimens were on the table, and illustrated his essay by many excellent remarks. We copy the following from the *Bristol Journal* report.

"It appeared to the author, that the whole town of Cromer stood on a chalk pebble. He hesitated to name the circumstance to any geologist, but some time afterwards he submitted it to Dr. Buckland, who confirmed his view of it. He should be glad to know if any gentleman had paid attention to the subject; and should any one visit Norfolk it would be desirable to ascertain if there was any connexion between the town of Cromer and the adjacent stratum, or whether it stood on a detached mass."

Mr. Murchison said, he had come to a different conclusion as to the great pebble on which the town was supposed to stand. In Lyall's book, there were two little sections of that district, by which it was clearly made out that the chalk rose up from the stratum in immense masses. In conclusion, he begged to compliment Mr. Charlesworth on his interesting paper.

Mr. J. G. Bowman read some remarks on the Bone Cave of Cefn, in Denbigh, accompanied by specimens. These caves have recently been more extensively excavated. A section of the upper and of the great cave consists first of a series of nearly horizontal layers of impalpable adhesive loam of lighter and dark shades, in which micaceous particles and layers of a redder colour may be seen. No coprolites have been seen by Mr. Bowman, nor did he perceive any teeth-marks of carnivorous animals upon the bone; and he confirmed Mr. Stanley's opinion of a former lake, by citing the immense mass

of primitive diluvium on the side of the valley, and suggested the importance of endeavouring to ascertain the height of its surface.

A conversation took place on the benefit which would be derived from the construction of accurate geological models, &c., of which specimens were shown by Mr. Ibbotson.

#### Zoology and Botany (D). Tuesday.

Dr. Richardson read a portion of his report on North American Zoology. (To be continued.)

Mr. Rootsey exhibited a living specimen of the *Arania mygale avicularia*, which is of the spider tribe, and made some observations on the subject. It was not uncommon to meet with them in collections, and one of them had been found in the London Docks. The animal in question was brought in a cargo of logwood, from the bay of Campeachy: it was not known, however, how it had subsisted, for though pieces of meat had been near it, it had not eaten them, but it was supposed to have sucked the meat. Allusion was made to the opinions, as to its poisonous qualities being more venomous than the serpent, and the extraordinary tales which were related of it; but, whether these were fabulous or not, its mode of procuring food was by dropping from the branches of trees into the nests of birds, and preying not only on the birds but on the eggs; whence it derived its name.

The Rev. Mr. Hope stated that it was not the true *avicularia* described by Spix and Martius, but that it was named after Spix.

*Mangel Wurzel*.—Mr. Rootsey mentioned the result of various experiments he had made in extracting sugar, spirit, &c. from mangel wurzel, or *Beta macro rrhiza*, and converting the plant into malt, specimens of which were exhibited to the section. The sugar was obtained in strong crystals, and the refuse of the plant was dried on a malt kiln at a proper temperature, where it acquired the flavour and properties of common malt, and afforded an excellent beverage. The molasses were fermented into a spirit, the flavour of which was comparable to the peach brandy of America. Forty tons of the plant, which were sometimes raised upon an acre of land, afforded 3 tons of malt and 3½ tons of molasses.

Mr. G. W. Hall observed that the quality of its juices depended on the soil and climate, and its productiveness was much more moderate.

Mr. Rootsey then exhibited a specimen of the *Hetticanemonum*, or turnip-fly, which he stated was the only insect which attacked the plant. Some discussion took place as to the best means of preventing its ravages.

Professor Henslow referred to the formation of sugar in plants, and exhibited a crystal which had fallen from near the corolla of the common anemondron. Immediately after the saccharine matter had exuded, it formed a crystal.

Mr. G. W. Hall called attention to a statement of facts connected with the acceleration of the growth of wheat. The average length of time required for the growth of wheat was about ten months; but observation had led to the conviction that much of this time might be saved; and the result has shewn that five months have sufficed to produce an abundant crop of wheat (a sample of which was exhibited to the section), by adapting the plant to the soil. The lighter silicious soils, when manured, possessed a warm and stimulating character, and conducted to a very rapid growth of plants, but they soon became exhausted; and it must be evident that an acceleration of the growth and ripening of the plants committed to a light



soil, and a diminution of the time required for perfecting its crops, must not only be congenial to its character, but tend to economise and prolong its productive powers. These circumstances had been observed and acted on with the most beneficial results in various ways. The paper then touched at length on the means to be employed in accelerating the vegetable growth, the evils attending it, &c.

Dr. Richardson referred to the statement of Humboldt, that the time required for the growth of wheat in South America was only 90 days, and in North America only 70 days; and thought, if the seed were imported, Mr. Hall's object might be attained.

After some discussion on this paper, Dr. Daubney stated to the section the result of several experiments which he had made on the effects of arsenic on vegetables. He had tried some experiments at Oxford, and he found that the plants, which were mustard, barley, and beans, did not suffer till more than one-half the soil was composed of the sulphurate of arsenic. Mr. Stephens stated that the fish in some trout streams in the vicinity of mines were destroyed in consequence of the water drained from the mines having been turned into them. A coachmaker of this city had informed him that his horses had suffered very much in consequence of grazing in a field near spelter works.

Wednesday.—Among other matters, Colonel Sykes read an interesting paper on the Fruits, cultivated and wild, of the Deccan, in the East Indies. The author stated that they amounted to forty-five cultivated (many of which are found wild also), and twenty-one wild fruits. They were illustrated by many drawings from absolute measurements, and had scales of length attached to them. The times of flowering and fruiting were mentioned, and the uses of the various fruits in the arts, in the general economy of the people; and deriving his intelligence from several ancient Sanscrit works, the Colonel detailed their medical qualities according to the opinion of the Hindus; and enumerated the religious ceremonies and ideas with which the plants and their products were associated. He found the *Anemona*, *Anacardium*, and *Carica*, in universal cultivation, although they are supposed to be natives of the Western world. He described what he considered to be the original of the *Citrus* family, as abounding in the wild state as a good sized tree along the western Ghauts of the Deccan; and he stated the wild rutmeg to be a noble forest tree at the source of the B— river. Colonel Sykes gave, also, the names of various fruits in the Mahratta, Sanscrit, and Hindustanee languages; and noticed that, wherever a Sanscrit name was wanting, the probability was that the fruit was not indigenous.

It appeared there were three kinds of mulberry, the species of one of which was unknown; and it was suggested, that the Deccan afforded a fine field for their cultivation, and the profitable production of silk.

Dr. Royle read a paper on Caoutchouc, and exhibited lettuce, dandelion, and other plants, besides the Chinese tree of our hot-houses, which produced a white fluid, analogous to the foreign importation.

A discussion, which led to no result, took place on the subject of phosphorescent light in the waters of the sea.

#### Medical Science (E.)

Dr. O. Beirne read a Report of the Dublin Committee on the Pathology of the Nervous System; also, an abstract of a work on Tetanus. A paper from Sir D. Dickson on aneurism was also read.

#### Statistics (F.) Monday.

This section having met in the chapter-house, was soon organised, and occupied Monday with the reading of a long and able paper by Dr. Cleland, contrasting the former and present state of Glasgow. It entered into many curious inquiries, and presented some curious results. From these we select a few specimens:

"In 1560, John Knox, and other Reformers, compiled articles of faith, which were universally approved of, and confirmed by act of parliament in 1567. Presbyterianism, however, was not established till 1572. The first Presbytery in England was held in that year, in Wandsworth in Surrey, and the first in Edinburgh in 1581."

The writer sketches the history of the Church from the time when the archbishops had 240 parishes under their control, to the present time, when there are eleven churches of the establishment, with 34,524 sittings, six holding the principle of an establishment with 9917 sittings; and seventeen dissenting and Roman Catholic places of worship, with 34,965 sittings.

About the year 1600 it appears, in medical affairs, that "there were only two midwives in the town; and that they were prohibited from attending any unmarried women in the day-time, until they had given intimation to a minister or a magistrate; and if in the night-time, they were to take the oath of the mother who was the father of the child."

The view of the Clyde, and the wonderful increase of the commerce of Glasgow, must offer points of much interest to the Bristolians. By improving the navigation from time to time, and which is still doing, the writer observes,

"Less than fifty years ago, a few gabbarts, and these only about 30 and 40 tons, could come up to Glasgow; and I recollect the time when, for weeks together, not a vessel of any description was to be seen at the port of Glasgow. The recent improvements have been such, that by the year 1831, vessels drawing 13 feet 6 inches water were enabled to come up to the harbour; and now large vessels, many of them upwards of 300 tons burden, from America, the East and West Indies, and the continent of Europe, as well as coasters, are often to be found three deep along nearly the whole length of the harbour. During the year 1834, about 27,000 vessels passed Renfrew ferry; and at some periods of the year, between 20 and 30 in one hour.\* The Camden, the first ship unconnected with the East India Company which brought a cargo of tea direct from Canton to Britain, was for Glasgow merchants, and her full cargo was sold in the Royal Exchange sale-room, on 14th November of that year; and the ship James McInroy, 450 tons burden, Captain Cleland, with a cargo of tea from Canton to Glasgow merchants, arrived at Glasgow on 17th of June, 1836, drawing 15 feet water, at a spring tide. A few years ago the harbour was only 730 feet long on one side; whereas it is now 3340 feet long on the north side of the river, and 1260 on the south. Till of late years there were only a few punts and ploughs for the purpose of dredging the river; now there are 4 dredging machines, with powerful steam apparatus, and 2 diving-bells.

\* The application of steam in propelling ves-

\* It appears from the evidence of Mr. James Russell, Harbour Master for the department of Steam Vessels, before a Committee of the House of Commons, in May, 1836, that there were 75 steamers plying to and from Glasgow, tonnage 688,568, and that during 1835 there were 8401 arrivals of steamers, twenty of them of the largest class, and some of these about 200 feet long (equal in length to frigates of the first class).

sels has long engaged the attention of persons of mechanical genius. Among others, Mr. Jonathan Hulls, in 1736; Marquis de Fouffroy, in 1781; Mr. James Rumsey and Mr. John Fitch, in 1785; Mr. Patrick Miller of Dalawintons, who published an account of his experiments, in 1787; Earl of Stanhope, in 1794; Lord Dundas, Mr. Symington, Mr. Taylor, &c., in 1801. The whole race of steam-propelling projectors having left the field one by one, without being able to effect the object of their laudable ambition, the ground was occupied by Mr. Henry Bell, who was bred a house carpenter. Having a turn for mechanics, and a great desire to follow out what others had abandoned, he employed Messrs. John Wood & Co. of Port Glasgow, to build a boat for him, which he called the Comet,\* and having himself made a steam engine of three-horse power, he applied the paddles. After several experiments, the Comet plied from Glasgow to Greenock, on 18th January, 1812, and made five miles an hour against a head wind; while, in a short time, by simply increasing her power, she went seven miles an hour. This was the first vessel that was successfully propelled on a navigable river in Europe; and it is very remarkable that, notwithstanding the great progress in mechanical science, no improvement has yet been made on Mr. Bell's principle, although numerous efforts have been made, here and elsewhere, for that purpose.†

On the subject of travelling by land there is some entertaining antiquarian information:—

Stage coaches were first introduced into Scotland in 1678. On the 6th August, in that year, Provost Campbell, and the other magistrates of Glasgow, contracted with William Hume of Edinburgh, that he should run a coach between Edinburgh and Glasgow, a distance of 42 miles. The following is an abstract of the indenture, which is rather curious. Hume engaged with all diligence to run a coach with six able horses, to leave Edinburgh every Monday morning, and return (God willing) every Saturday night; the passengers to have the liberty of taking a cloak-bag for their clothes; the *Burgesses of Glasgow* to have a preference to the coach; the fare from the 1st March to the 1st September, to be 4l. 16s. Scots (8s. sterling); and during the other months, 6l. 8s. Scots. As the undertaking was arduous, and could not be gone into without assistance, the magistrates agreed to give Hume 200 merks a-year for five years. The coach was to run for that period, whether passengers applied or not, in consideration of his having actually received two years' premium in advance, 22l. 4s. 5½d. sterling."

In 1739, not quite a century ago, two gentlemen going from Edinburgh to London, state that they "made the journey on horseback; that there was no turnpike road till they came to Grantham, within one hundred and ten miles of London; that up to that point they travelled upon a narrow causeway, with an unmade soft road upon each side of it; that they met, from time to time, strings of pack horses, from 30 to 40 in a gang, the mode by which goods seemed to have been transported from one part of the country to another. The leading horse of the gang carried a bell, to

\* The Comet having been lost at sea, Mr. Charles Atherton, engineer, managing partner in the firm of Claud Girdwood & Co., has, with the true esprit de corps, procured the original engine, which had lain long in a watery bed. While the engine will be venerated by future antiquaries, it will serve as a foil to the splendid engines made in their extensive establishment.

† Mr. Bell was born in the parish of Torphichen, Linlithgowshire, on 7th April, 1767. He died at his house, Helmsburgh, on 14th March, 1830.

give warning to travellers coming in the opposite direction; and he said that when they met these trains of horses, with their packs across their backs, the causeway not affording room to pass, they were obliged to make way for them, and plunge into the side road, out of which they sometimes found it difficult to get back again upon the causeway. \* \* Now, the gross number of persons passing and re-passing to Glasgow yearly, amount to one million, five hundred and eighty-seven thousand one hundred and ninety-eight (1,587,198)."

The union with England was especially obnoxious to Glasgow; and it is a remarkable instance how short sighted we are in such matters, for it "opened up a spirit for trade hitherto unknown in Scotland, and contributed greatly to the prosperity of that city." In 1740, the population of Glasgow amounted to 17,034, and in 1831, its busy multitudes had increased to 202,426!!

"There is one birth in 29 47-100th persons. The marriages being 1919, there is one marriage for 105 4-100th persons. The births being 6868, and marriages 1919, there are 3 57-100th births to each marriage. The number of families being 41,965, there are 4 82-100th persons to each family."

The cholera carried off 3005 persons, and 3203 were recovered, the cases being 1 for every 33½ of the population.

"The manufacture of linens, lawns, cambrics, and other articles of similar fabric, was introduced into Glasgow about the year 1725, and continued to be the staple manufacture till they were succeeded by muslins. \* \* The cotton manufacture is almost entirely confined to Glasgow, and the country immediately adjoining, to a distance of about 25 miles radius, and all these country mills, even including the great work at Stanley, are connected with Glasgow houses, or in the Glasgow trade. In Lanarkshire, (in which Glasgow is situated) there are 74 cotton factories; in Renfrewshire, 41; Dumbartonshire, 4; Buteshire, 2; Argyleshire, 1; Perthshire, 1. In the six counties there are 123 cotton mills, nearly 100 of which belong to Glasgow."

The iron trade is also very prosperous, and new furnaces yearly bringing forward. The chemical works at St. Rollox, "the most extensive of the kind in Europe, covers ten acres of ground, and within its walls there are buildings which cover 27,340 square yards of ground. In the premises there are upwards of 100 furnaces, retorts, or fire-places, and in one apartment there are platina vessels to the value of upwards of 8000*l*. In this great concern, upwards of 600 tons of coal are consumed weekly."

The particulars connected with hospitals, asylums, water-supply, gas, banks, administration of justice, &c. &c. are all carefully noted; but the following is more generally amusing.

"On the 24th April, 1595, the Kirk session directed the town's drummer to 'forbid all persons from going to Rutherglen to see vain plays on Sundays.' On 20th May, 1624, the Session gave public intimation, 'That all retailers of comedians would be severely punished;' and on 20th July, 1670, the magistrates of Glasgow 'interdicted strolling stage-players from running through the streets, and from performing plays in private houses, which they called the Wisdom of Solomon.' It does not appear that any theatrical representation was allowed in this city from the Reformation till 1750, when Mr. Burrell, a teacher of dancing at the Bell of the Brae, gave the use of his hall for that purpose. A temporary theatre was

erected against the wall of the archbishop's palace in 1752, and in a short time thereafter it was demolished by a part of a congregation who had been hearing the celebrated George Whitfield preach in the High Church Yard, who denounced it as the devil's house. At that period popular feeling against theatrical amusements was so great, that dress parties were escorted to the theatre by a military guard."

"The first newspaper printed in the West of Scotland, was the *Glasgow Courant*, which appeared in 1715. It was published three times a-week, consisted of twelve pages in small quarto, and was sold for three halfpence, or 'one penny to regular customers.'"

"Previous to the breaking out of the American war, the Virginians, who were looked up to as the Glasgow aristocracy, had a privileged walk at the Cross, which they trod in long scarlet cloaks and bushy wigs, and such was the state of society, that when any of the most respectable master tradesmen of the city had occasion to speak to these tobacco lords, he required to walk on the other side of the street till he was fortunate enough to meet the eye of the patrician, for it would have been presumption to have made up to him."

National education is worthily cultivated, but the details respecting it, and other interesting facts, are too much for us to enter upon.

*Tuesday.*—The paper of to-day was by Col. Sykes, "On the Utility of Co-operating Committees of Trade and Agriculture in the Commercial and Manufacturing Towns of Great Britain, &c. as projected by Mr. Holt Mackenzie and Mr. Forbes Royle, and advocated by Sir Alexander Johnston and Sir C. Forbes, for investigating more exclusively the Natural and Artificial Products of India."

The object of the paper (and it is a most important one both to Great Britain and to her eastern empire) was to invite the formation of committees, as suggested in the above title, in our principal manufacturing and commercial towns, either in co-operation with the Royal Asiatic Society, or independently, for the following purposes:—

1. To ascertain what articles, the produce of India, now imported into England, are of inferior quality to those produced in other countries; to investigate the causes of the inferiority, and to explain and suggest means for removing them.

2. To ascertain what articles now in demand in England, or likely to be used, if furnished, but not yet generally forming part of our commerce with India, could be profitably provided in that country, or their place advantageously supplied by other things belonging to it; to take measures for making known in India the wants of England, and in England, the capabilities of India; and to suggest and facilitate such experiments as may be necessary to determine the practicability of rendering the resources of the one country subservient to the exigencies of the other.

3. To ascertain what useful articles are produced in countries possessing climates resembling those of the different parts of India which are not known to that country, and *vice versa*. To consider the means of transplanting the productions, and transferring the processes of one country to another; and to encourage and facilitate all useful interchanges of that nature.

4. With the above views, and for the sake of general knowledge and improvement, to consider how the Statistics of Indian Agriculture and Arts (including climate, meteorology, geo-

logy, botany, and zoology) may be most conveniently and economically ascertained and recorded; and to encourage and facilitate all inquiries directed to those objects.

Numerous illustrations of these great national considerations were quoted from Mr. Royle. It appeared that so lately as 1784, an American vessel arrived at Liverpool with eight bags of cotton, which were seized, under the belief that America did not produce that article; and now her produce is 400 millions of pounds, the greater part of which is consumed in Great Britain; and it is a remarkable fact, that the native country of the Sea Island cotton is supposed to be Persia! The Carolina Rice, which sells at 5*d*. per lb., whilst the best India rice sells at only 2½*d*. or 3*d*., originated in a single bag of East India rice given by Mr. C. Dubois, of the India House, to an American trader. All the coffee of the West Indies originated in a single plant in the hot-houses of Amsterdam. How pregnant were these examples; and how much might the act, even of an individual, change the face of a country!

Of new or little-known articles lately introduced from India, and which are of the utmost importance to our manufacturing interests, it was stated, that in 1792, Mr. Brown, the resident at Cossimbazar, told the council at Calcutta, that if it should think proper to send a few cwt. of lac to Europe, it might be procured in Calcutta. The annual consumption in England is now estimated at 600,000 lbs. Catechu was so much neglected that its price was as low as 2*s*. per cwt.: it was discovered to be useful in dying cotton a peculiar brown, and is also employed in tanning; and its price is steady at 40*s*. per cwt. Royal safflower is another article of curious illustration. Ten years since only Turkey safflower was known, and now the East India alone commands the market. Rape-seed recently introduced has, it is understood, produced a profit to one mercantile house of £40,000. Flax, or linseed, for which we are dependant on Russia for 50,000 tons annually, first began to be imported from India in 1832: it was found to be better than the Russian, and the crushers gave 15*s*. per cwt. more for it. The importation has amazingly increased, and England will doubtless ere long look to her own dependances for the total supply of her wants. In India, even some kinds of Indian iron have recently been sold at more than double the price of the English iron. The rapid increase of the importation of castor and cocoa-nut oils was mentioned; and specimens of cocoa-nut fibre, as a valuable, cheap, and healthy substitute for horse-hair, in stuffing mattresses, &c., were exhibited. Many other articles were enumerated as of infinite value to the manufacturers of England; gums, resins, varnishes, oil, and cordage, plants, &c. &c. besides articles of the *Materia Medica*, such as senna, rhubarb, &c. &c. &c.

Col. Sykes concluded by stating that he was merely the channel of communication of the ideas of others, but if in being so, he assisted, in the slightest degree, to advance the well-being of his fellow men, of whatever shade of colour, of the East or of the West, his object would be effected and his gratification complete. He offered his aid, should gentlemen be desirous of forming themselves into committees, either separately or in conjunction with the Royal Asiatic Society, as at first suggested.

Much interesting discussion ensued, in which Lord Sandon, Baron C. Dupin, Lord Nugent, Mr. Halswell, Mr. Robinson, and other gentlemen, took part, the whole concurring in the

practicability and great utility of the proposed design.\*

**Wednesday.**—Dr. Lardner delivered a discourse on railways and the locomotion thereon; stating a number of striking circumstances, and endeavouring to fix a law by which the calculations respecting them might be governed.

The treasurer, Mr. John Taylor, gave a brief view of the mineral treasures of Great Britain, replete with interest to mining and mercantile speculators.

#### Mechanics (G).

Professor Mosely delivered an able lecture on the theory of locomotive carriages.

Mr. Russell commenced one of several very important papers on the phenomena of waves, the passage of vessels through them, and other points of pre-eminent interest to a trading and naval country. Of these, which were not concluded when it became necessary to send off our despatches, we shall endeavour to procure an analysis for a future *Gazette*. At present we shall only remark, that they displayed immense industry, ingenuity, and talent; and do infinite honour to Mr. Russell, who appears to be a young and zealous investigator of useful science.

The evening of Monday closed with the crush at the theatre, of which we have already spoken. The stage was, *pro platform*, occupied by the officers, members of sections, &c. of the Association; the pit, made level with it, and separated by a rail, the boxes, and the gallery, were crammed to suffocation; and, finally, a number of ladies, disappointed of room elsewhere, were brought among the officials on the benches of the stage. We should suppose there were above 2000 persons in the house—a capital thing had it been for a dramatic manager, with *All's Well that Ends Well* and *Raising the Wind*. As it was, nothing could be done by the managers and actors of the Association, but to put the best face they could on it; and they really acquitted themselves admirably.

Dr. Lloyd, in glowing terms, eulogised the Association and its purposes: “by the rapid interchange of scientific knowledge, and putting forth the giant powers of the mind, to combine with one simultaneous effort, those engaged in kindred pursuits, thereby accelerating the progress of discovery and the advance of knowledge.” “The practical mechanic, as well as the philosopher (he subsequently said), share alike in and aid our labours; and from this Association also does the statesman seek his materials wherewith to improve the social edifice. If I may use a figurative expression, it bears an analogy to a brilliant gem, which, though it may be dignified by its setting, yet its own native lustre is not impaired or improved by any thing extrinsic. Yet, nevertheless, permit me now to offer to you my hearty congratulations on the splendid setting it is about to receive, and which is only fitting its inestimable value, in the countenance and support of the Marquess of Northampton, whom I now beg to introduce to you as the chairman.”

The Marquess of Northampton, previous to taking the chair, in the usual manner, addressed the assembly, and said, “I wish to

\* Our attention having been drawn to this subject, for several months past, we have become sensible of its extreme importance; and anxious to do our utmost to promote its trial on a large scale, and, we have no doubt, its success is a matter of vast moment to both countries. We trust there will be a central board in London, and a unity of action calculated to effect, most speedily and extensively, the great ends in view. We know that the first mercantile interests in the East are earnestly desiring to enter into corresponding action; and we shall be glad, indeed, if any services of ours can be made available in so good a cause.—Ed. L. G.

distinguish my reign by an act of royal favour. There are many ladies extremely inconvenienced for want of seats, and though, where we are now sitting, is especially kept for the officers of the Association, an arrangement which must be observed on future meetings,\* yet, on this present occasion, I will issue my royal mandate for the accommodation of the ladies.”

Seats were then placed on the stage, and a number of ladies took their places.

The noble chairman then addressed the meeting; and, after expressing his sympathy with the melancholy event which deprived them of the presence of Lord Lansdowne, also panegyrised the Association and its effects, in expressive language; and, adapting himself to the popularity of the occasion, very happily threw in a touch of pleasantry suited to the character of his audience: “I trust (he said) that Bristol will follow the example of the other places which this Association has visited; and that, for this week at least, all sectarian feelings will die away, and the hideous forms of political and religious animosity will be banished; it is not by hating our fellow-citizens that we shew either our patriotism or our religion. This happy consummation is one of the great moral advantages of the Association. There is another point to which I wish to advert: there have arrived to join us many distinguished persons from foreign parts; I am sure it is not necessary for me in Bristol, whence Sebastian Cabot sailed, to urge upon you to welcome and cherish them. Shew to them that the time has at length arrived when Science and her Sisters, Religion, Arts, and Literature—those four enchantresses, with their magic wand, have scared away the fiends of national enmity and strife; and that all nations are now united in furthering the common interest of our common species. Gentlemen, I do not know that I have any thing more to address to you; I now, therefore, turn to another portion of the audience, and say, Ladies, we feel highly flattered by your presence; we are delighted to see as many as possibly can be accommodated—your smiles and your approbation are our best reward—you have much in your power over your husbands (cheers and laughter). I see some of you laughing, but I am sure from the gallantry of the Bristol gentlemen, it must be true;—make them, then, to believe Science is as lovely as yourselves. But, to speak seriously, much is in your power; for, who shall say that it was not the maternal affection pointing out the beauties of a shell, a butterfly, or a flower, that first lighted up the sparks of genius in many an infant breast, which now is shining gloriously forth, the pride and wonder of the world.”

When we recollect the Act of Elizabeth, by which it is stated that, in order to procure the Bristol women husbands (for they were *then*, whatever they may be *now*, so ugly that nobody would venture on marrying them), every man who took a Bristol wife, was rewarded by the freedom of the city and all its privileges, we need not be surprised that the chairman's allusion and conclusion, drew down loud cheering. The Bristolians, of both sexes, seemed to enjoy the joke exceedingly.

Dr. Daubeny, as one of the secretaries for

\* So it ought to have been, as it was also advertised in the printed papers and placards; but, nevertheless, on Wednesday evening, when, in other respects, matters were rather better conducted, some half dozen of ladies were introduced upon the stage. Such partial favour ought never to be shewn; for, though it may indulge and gratify a very small number, it must create discontent in all who are excluded.—Ed. L. G.

the Bristol meeting, on whom the task devolved, next addressed the assembly, and gave an excellent *resumé* of the proceedings of the past year, and analysis of the volume of transactions, which has just been published. As a report of this would be to repeat much which has already appeared originally in our columns, we shall content ourselves with his concluding remarks:

“What proportion of such inquiries (*i. e.* those contained in the volume over which he had gone) may be attributable to the influence of this Association, and how much might have been merely the result of that increased taste for physical research to which the Association itself owes its existence, I do not pretend to determine; this, however, at least, must be allowed, that many of the most important truths communicated, might have been long in winning their way to general recognition, and in ridding themselves of those exaggerated and mistaken views which are the common accompaniments of every infant discovery, had it not been for the opportunities which these meetings afford, of examining the very authors of them, with respect to their own inquiries; of confronting them with others who have prosecuted similar trains of research; of questioning them with respect to the more doubtful and difficult points involved; and of obtaining from them, in many instances, an exhibition of the very experiments by which they had been led to their conclusions. And it is this personal intercourse with the authors of these great revolutions in Science, which, in itself, constitutes one of the principal charms of these meetings. Who would not have listened with delight to a Newton, had he condescended to converse on the great truths of Astronomy? to a Jussieu, imparting to a circle of his intimates in his own garden at Trianon, those glimpses with respect to the natural relations of plants, which he found it so difficult to reduce to writing? or to a Linnaeus, discussing at Oxford his then novel views with respect to the vegetable kingdom, and winning from the reluctant Dillenius a tardy acknowledgment of their merits? And, in like manner, who does not value the privilege of hearing a Dalton discourse on these occasions on his own Atomic Theory? or a Faraday (who, however, I regret to say, is, on this occasion, prevented by illness from attending) explain orally the steps by which he has traced the relations between Electricity and Magnetism, although every one is aware that the principal facts, both with respect to the one and the other, have long since been made public by their respective authors, and have been abundantly commented upon by others? And nowhere, perhaps, is it more desirable to instil those sentiments to which I have alluded, than within the precincts of those provincial cities which the Association now proposes to visit. The inhabitants of those great emporiums of Commerce and Manufactures are, indeed, often enough reminded that processes directed by the guidance of Chemistry and Mechanics, constitute the very basis of their prosperity; but they are too apt to regard these and other kindred sciences, as the instruments merely of material wealth, and to deem it superfluous to prosecute them further than they are seen to conduce to that one end. That such notions are short-sighted, even with reference to the practical applications of the Arts, it would not be difficult to shew; but I am ambitious to place the question on a higher ground; and the presence amongst us of such individuals as I have mentioned, will do more towards that object than volumes of argument would effect.



It will convince us at least, that other roads to distinction, besides that of mere wealth, are opened to us through the instrumentality of the Sciences; for although, thanks to the spirit of the age, which, in this respect at least, stands advantageously distinguished from those preceding it, the discoverers of important truths are not, as heretofore, allowed to languish in absolute poverty, yet the debt which Society owes to them would be but inadequately paid, were it not for the tribute of respect and admiration which is felt to be their due. It has, indeed, been sometimes objected, that too large a share of public attention is in this age directed to the Physical Sciences, and that the study of the human mind, the cultivation of literature, and the progress of the Fine Arts have been arrested in consequence. In what degree the accusation is well founded, this is not the place to inquire, although, when we look round upon the many literary characters that adorn this age, we should rather suppose the remark to have arisen from the increasing interest in science, than from any diminished taste for other studies. If this complaint, however, had any foundation in truth, it would only supply a stronger argument in favour of an association like the present, the express object of which is, to correct that narrowness of mind which is the consequence of limiting ourselves to the details of a single science, or it may be, to a single nook and corner of one, and, therefore, to render the prevailing taste of the times, more subservient to mental culture, and, therefore, a better substitute for the studies it is alleged to have superseded. An association too, which, with no narrow and exclusive feeling towards those pursuits which it is designed to foster, extends the right hand of fellowship to men of eminence in every department upon which the human mind can be exercised, and which would have felt that no higher honour could have been bestowed upon its present meeting, than by the attendance of the great poet, and the great sculptor, who own Bristol as their native city. To alter, indeed, the character of the period in which we live, is as much beyond the efforts of individuals, as to fix the time of their birth, or the country and station in which their lot is cast; and it is, perhaps, inevitable, that an age and country so distinguished above all others for the advancement of arts and manufactures, should attach an increased importance to those sciences on which both the latter are dependant. But it is at least consolatory to reflect, that Providence has attached to every one of those conditions of Society through which nations are destined to pass, capabilities of moral and intellectual improvement; and that the very sciences which so amply minister to our physical enjoyments, also afford the means of those higher gratifications which spring from the exercise of the taste and imagination. Thus, although it may not be easy for the citizen to indulge to any extent in studies alien from the pursuits which engross his hours of business, yet it cannot be deemed incompatible with the latter, to mount up to the principles of those sciences which are connected with the arts he practises; to study their relation one to the other; and to acquaint himself with the steps by which they have reached their present eminence. It cannot but be useful to the chemical manufacturer to study the laws of that molecular attraction which binds together the elements of the substances which he prepares; to the mechanic to examine the processes of the arts in connexion with the general laws of matter; to the miner or land-surveyor, to inform himself with respect to the physical

structure of the globe; to the agriculturist, to become acquainted with the principles of vegetable physiology, and the natural relations of plants. For my own part, intimately connected as I am, both with the first of the commercial cities, and also with the first of the universities that welcomed the British Association within its precincts, warmly interested in the prosperity of both, and officiating as local secretary on each occasion, I have felt personally gratified at seeing the selection of these places justified by the cordiality of our reception in both, and at witnessing the new vigour which has been infused into the Association in consequence of the support it has therein received. But how much will that gratification be augmented, if it should be found hereafter that the benefit in either case has been mutual; that these meetings have cemented those bonds of union between the academical and the commercial portion of the British community, which it is so desirable to maintain; and that, whilst the university to which I belong has reaped advantage, by having its attention called to the interest felt in the physical sciences generally throughout the kingdom, my fellow citizens here will, in like manner, catch the spirit which pervades our body, and will engage in the pursuit of science with a juster conception of its high objects, and with a zeal and devotion to its cause, which will not be less practically useful, because it is stimulated by a more disinterested love of truth; less capable of ministering to the operations of the arts, because it is also rendered subservient to mental discipline and improvement."—(Cheers.)

Mr. Taylor read a statement of the funds and disbursements of the Association.

TUESDAY, 23D.

This was altogether a very good sample of a very bad day; we mean as to weather, for it rained from morning till night. This, of course, threw a damp over the proceedings and motions of the members, and prevented the promenade at Miller's gardens appointed for the evening. The sections were, however, fully attended; and in that of geology, in particular, it was what they called "a grand field day;" and an exhibition, indeed, of which it would be extremely difficult to convey any idea to the reader. A difference of opinion having sprung up among some leading geologists on the question of organic remains found in certain strata, it was understood that the discussion would be brought on by the reading of a paper by Mr. Murchison and Professor Sedgwick on a classification of the old slate rocks of Devonshire, with an explanation of the true position of the culm deposits of that county.

An ample explanation of the diagram which accompanied this paper, and shewed a section of the county from Linton through Bideford, and to the Dartmoor, was given by Mr. Murchison, who was followed by Mr. Sedgwick in one of his most brilliant speeches. The result of their observations on the whole series of rocks, and especially on a great carboniferous, or rather culmiferous basin, occupying the heart of the county, was triumphantly brought forward, as "confirmation strong as proof of holy writ," of the accuracy of the Silurian system of Murchison, and the Cambrian system of Sedgwick. It is quite impossible to follow the striking oration of the latter, which, if he had not been so acknowledged before, must have stamped him one of the first of popular illustrators that ever spoke to a delighted assembly.

The originality and freshness of his images, the profundity of his scientific and general remarks, the corruscations of his fancy, the

poetry and extraordinary command of his language, his felicitous employment of common words and phrases, his humour and playfulness, his peculiar parentheses (resembling the most admirable ornaments of a splendid fabric of architecture—strengthening what they adorn), his home thrusts in argument, with a frankness and friendliness towards opponents, and his dashing off at intervals, as if a single spark—a syllable—had suggested a new train of ideas and combinations,—rendered this, like many of his other addresses, a treat of the highest description to every one who had the good fortune to hear it. In numerous parts it might well be said to invent and embody the poetry of geology; or, as it was exquisitely expressed by himself, when Mr. Sedgwick approached the haze of the science to work upon in obscurity, he so illuminated the cloud as to convert it into a halo of glory. We can merely thus describe it; but we must leave any attempt at detail, if ever, to a more leisure hour.

Mr. Delabèche explained his objections to the theory supported by Messrs. Murchison and Sedgwick; and Professor Phillips supported them, on the comparison of the fossil remains which were in drawers on the table. These were so analogous to the culm remains in Yorkshire, that he would have taken them as specimens of that formation.

One of Mr. Sedgwick's conclusions struck us forcibly. In his opinion, the granite of Dartmoor was newer than the carbonaceous deposit of the basin which rested upon it on the south. His observation that geology was a science of observation and not of experiment; and his definitions of the difference were also eminently clear and convincing; and his picture of the giant granite itself absolutely sublime.

The dispute ended in perfect harmony, by some remarks from Dr. Buckland, who inclined to take a middle course between the combatants, and the Section saw with satisfaction, that though they *hailed each other over the coals*, the geological rivals parted as good friends as when they began.

In the Section of *Mechanical Science* (we copy from the *Bristol Gazette*), Mr. Whewell gave a short account of the present state of the science of the tides. Though there can be no doubt that the tides are to be reckoned among the results of the great law of universal gravitation, they differ from all the other results of that law in this respect, that the facts have not, in their details, been reduced to an accordance with the theory; and the peculiar interest of the subject at the present moment arises from this, that the researches now going on appear to be tending to an accordance of theory and observation; although much in the way of calculation and observation remains still to be effected before this accordance reaches its ultimate state of completeness. With regard to observation, the port of Bristol offers peculiar advantages; for, in consequence of the great magnitude of the tides here, almost all the peculiarities of the phenomena are magnified, and may be studied as if under a microscope. With regard to the theory, one point mainly was dwelt upon. By the theory, the tides follow the moon's *southings* at a certain interval of time (the *lunital* interval), and this mean interval will undergo changes, so as to leave less than the mean when the moon passes three hours after the sun, equal to the mean when the moon passes six hours after the sun, and greater than the mean when the moon passes nine hours after the sun; and the quantity by

which the lunital interval is less than the mean when the moon is three hours after the sun, is exactly equal to the quantity by which the lunital interval is greater than the mean when the moon passes nine hours after the sun. And this equality of the defect and excess of the interval at three hours and at nine hours of the moon's transit is still true where the moon's force alters by the alteration of her parallax or declination. Now, we are to inquire whether this equality of excess and defect of the interval in all changes of declination, &c. is exhibited by observation. It appears, at first sight, that the equality does not exist; that is, if we obtain the lunital interval by comparing the tide with the *nearest* preceding transit. But in truth, we ought not to refer the tide to such a transit, because we know that the tide of our shores must be produced in a great measure by the tide which revolves in the Southern Ocean, and which every half-day sends off tides along the Atlantic. The tide, therefore, which reaches Bristol, is the result of a tide wave, which was produced by the action of the sun and moon, at some anterior period. It is found, that if at Bristol we refer each tide to the transit of the moon, which took place about 44 hours previously, we do obtain an accordance of the observations with theory in the feature above described; that, although the moon's force alters (by the alteration of her declination), the defect of the lunital interval for a three hours' transit of the moon is equal to the excess of that interval for a nine hours' transit. And thus, in this respect at least, the tide at Bristol agrees exactly with the tide which would be produced, if, 44 hours before the tide, the waters of the ocean assumed the form of the spheroid of equilibrium due to the forces of the moon, and sun, and if this tide were transmitted unaltered to Bristol in those 44 hours. The above result has been obtained by the calculations of Mr. T. G. Bunt, of Bristol. Mr. Lubbock has stated to the Mathematical Section on the previous day, that he had employed a sum of 250*l.*, placed at his disposal last year by the Association, in procuring calculations to be made upon 19 years of London tides; and that he had obtained a similar result; the London tides agreeing in almost every particular, as to a great degree of exactness with the equilibrium tide of about 70 hours previous. It was also stated, that Mr. Bunt had constructed a machine for registering the time and height of high water, which was about to be placed near one of the docks of this port. The machine, which was exhibited, is an improvement and simplification of those previously employed; as, for example, that erected at Hung Road, on the grounds of R. Bright, Esq. Observations made with such machines have already led to the above and many other important results; and it cannot be doubted that, by a continuation of such observations, the obscurity and perplexity which have hitherto involved this subject may be dispelled. It will, therefore, be a matter of great regret to all lovers of science, if, when this machine is erected, provision be not made for the careful and regular employment of it in observations; the more so, as the expense of such observations would be very small.

Such other papers of this and future days as we could analyse, will be found under their proper heads and dates. Mr. Russell, on the tides, &c., has occupied several hours daily; and, in the mechanic section of Wednesday, led to a debate of a character quite opposite to the geological controversy we have just described. It ran upon patent paddles, and assumed so

disputatious and personal a cast, that the chairman, Mr. Davies Gilbert, had to interpose to terminate it.

In the course of the forenoon, the iron rod, stretched across the Avon for the ceremony of Saturday morning, when the first stone of the suspension bridge is to be laid, was precipitated from its airy height in consequence of the breaking of a rope on the Clifton shore. One man only was slightly hurt, but the iron was imbedded above five feet deep in the bed of the river. Its appearance, when fished up again, was very curious, being not only crusted with mud, but bent into all the forms of the channel into which it had been precipitated. Its curves and contortions, when once more elevated to its position, which was ably accomplished by the engineer (Brunel, junior), before Thursday morning, made it a more picturesque object than it was before; and thousands visited the spot, which had become additionally interesting from the accident.

Wednesday, being a lovely day, Mr. Pocock's kites flying over Durdham Downs, with his carriage in exercise, and the multitudes moving about, produced a stirring and gratifying effect.

We shall in this Number merely glance at Thursday, which fortunately proved a beautiful day. The sections were so fully occupied, that the metaphysical, geological, and, we believe, others, appointed an evening meeting at eight o'clock. In the mechanics, Dr. Lardner delivered an eloquent discourse on steam communication between England and America, which gave rise to some very interesting observations from members from Ireland and the United States. The possession and use of anthracite coal came prominently under discussion.

But, perhaps, the chief novelty of the day, if not of the meeting, was the apparition, in the geological section, of a gentleman hitherto unknown to fame, but who certainly will not continue so any longer. With a hasty notice of him we must conclude our report for this week.

Mr. Murchison opened the order of the day. The proceedings commenced by the Marquess of Spineto reading a very elaborate paper on the geographical position of Memphis. After a comparison of the different opinions of authors who had visited the spot, he alluded to the causes which have operated in preventing accurate researches as to the nature of the site upon which the ancient city was built. These were the accumulation of immense bodies of alluvium, conveyed by the river, and producing on the spot a capacious delta. Mr. Fox followed in a beautiful paper illustrative of the formation of mineral veins. Tracing these formations to the action of electricity, and bearing upon the previous day's discussion, as to the causes of anti and synclinal lines and elevatory faces generally, he produced a simple but highly instructive experiment, formed from the introduction into a common earthen oblong pan of a portion of hard clay, which divided the box into two compartments. In one compartment he placed sulphuric acid, and in the other water. Into the sulphuric acid he introduced plates of zinc, connected by a conducting wire, with a piece of copper suspended in the water. Electric action commenced, and the copper passed into a sulphate by the transmission of sulphur through the clay. Mr. Fox attributes the crystallisation of tin specimens in copper formations, and the difference in the positive capacity and character of mineral courses to the variance which would naturally

happen from the action of unequal electrical forces.

Mr. Fox promised a completion of the paper, which was received with loud cheers.

Just as Mr. Fox had concluded, the gentleman, to whom we have alluded, was introduced by the president, Dr. Buckland, of the name of Cross, from near Taunton. This gentleman had for years made electrical phenomena his study; and more particularly the influence of the slow, steady, and continued process of electrical forces on different substances. His results were, indeed, extraordinary. He mentioned the fact of an apparatus remaining in constant action for twelve months; and the astounding intimation, that, from the influence of this continued electric action, he had produced not only crystals of lime, but that he had submitted powdered flint to its influences, and found that around the positive pole crystals of quartz were formed, but those not touching the wire. He subsequently formed crystals of iron pyrites at the negative pole, from elements of these crystals; and has now various crystals of copper, tin, silica, and lime, in daily formation. The crystals of aragonite were formed from the water of a cave in Somersetshire, highly charged with the carbonate and sulphate of lime, by submitting this water to the action of a common water-battery (for he used no acid!) in nine days' time! It is impossible to state all he said on the subject; but his communications astonished every person present, and none more than Dr. Buckland, Mr. Sedgwick, and other learned persons. He mentioned a very material and curious fact, that light was detrimental to the progress of crystallisation; and that the action of the battery was greater between the hours of seven and ten in the morning,—being at that period, from his repeated observations, at its maximum, and at the same hour of the evening at its minimum!!! Barometrical, thermometrical, and other assumed causes, he found not to have any effect on this latter circumstance.

Mr. Cross invited all the scientific persons present to the inspection of his various batteries now in action; and to the formation of the numerous crystallisations now taking place from several substances; stating, that he had no doubt but that by thus imitating the slow process of nature, he could in time produce some of the rarest and most singular of nature's productions.

#### REVIEW OF NEW BOOKS.

*Violet; or, the Danseuse: a Portraiture of Human Passions and Character.* 2 vols. 12mo. London, 1836. Colburn.

WHAT is it that we expect from fiction?—Truth: truth analysed, and placed in new and strong lights; and the existence of the many, reproduced and understood by the history of the few. This is especially the case with the fictions of the present day; they are the medium for conveying certain social views, the result of certain observation and experience. The story is only a vehicle—a pleasant and a necessary one; but the success, the lasting success, of a work depends on its mental investigation. The human heart is a problem as little solved in the present day as in the groves of Academe, or the schools of Alexandria; and yet how important the study, in a great moral truth, brought forth so as to force attention, is the germ of a revolution! The science that searches the stars is as nothing in its importance to that which drags even the lowest depths of humanity. The work now before us is

obviously a first production. There is a freshness, an earnestness, about a first book, which even the most successful author regrets; it is the first love, and the whole heart is in it. *Violet* is a most remarkable work, full of feeling, vigour, and truth, set forth by a singularly dramatic style. It would be impossible for the most acute critic to define in what that dramatic power consists, which often gives a charm to the careless sketch, and makes the scene real as those we ourselves remember. This power *Violet* possesses in a striking degree—we grow perfectly acquainted with all the characters; they are natural, and they act naturally; they do what is in perfect keeping with our preconceived idea of them that they should do. The story is of intense interest; and there are scenes whose pathos is unrivalled. As in real life, the great events turn on slight circumstances. A letter missent—a chance meeting—a day's illness—these are the trifles which alter the whole current of our intentions. We look back, and we are astonished to find how small was the cause that overthrew our seeming firm resolves. The heroine, *Violet*, is conceived in a spirit of exquisite poetry; she is a "lady of nature's making;" the loveliness of mind and soul belong to no class any more than the loveliness of face and form. She is, moreover, that feminine *idéale* present even to the poor Indian in the Prairies, when she said, "Let not my child be a girl, for very sorrowful is the lot of woman." D'Arcy, the hero, too, is drawn with consummate skill: he is what society of our time would inevitably make him. Our social system is altogether false, repelling, and corrupting. Its luxury is without enjoyment, and its advantages essentially external. Selfishness is inherent in its composition—selfishness, that universal vice, which is only counterbalanced by generous impulses, and by enthusiasm. Now, in society, as at present constituted, the impulse is checked, and the enthusiasm ridiculed; and selfishness is left with little to restrain, and nothing to redeem. *Violet*, under the mask of an affecting fiction, is a just and severe satire on the existing state of manners, yet sorrowful in its bitterness. Life should be seen and studied from all points; and *Violet* takes completely unbroken ground. We have often wondered that the theatrical world has never before been explored by fiction; and what a strange picture does it now present! "Mrs. Norris" and "Mrs. Woodville" are pieces of perfect comedy; and a thousand slight touches of humour and sarcasm are scattered throughout. There is a capital quotation at the head of one of the chapters.

"Pardon this digression; But, whatso'er may be a man's profession, Whether the trade be noble or ignoble, Whether he steer a frigate or a coble, He finds some vast importance in the calling, And deems the universe is kept from falling, And all the interests of man affected, By that to which his talents are directed."—*Anon.*

This is excellently worked out in the various small importances so amusingly brought forward. Still we must entreat our readers to believe till they can read for themselves, for it is difficult to give an idea by a quotation of this work. The wit is like a brilliant chain of which it is impossible to detach the links; and the great merit of the narrative is in its progressive interest, and its well-sustained and developed characters. The following scene will, however, give an idea of the writer's power; the two actors in it are both lovers of the ill-fated *Violet*.

"An observer of human nature, a minute observer, would have made a study of the cha-

acter of these two young men from their countenances and demeanour at this moment. The light was so placed as to fall exactly upon the faces of both, while the greater part of the room itself was almost obscured. Lord Stanmore was at all times handsome; but, for a man who until now had known no care, he had an habitually melancholy expression. We have said before that his character was tinged with it; now, however, it clouded his face, while the swollen lip and gloomy eye gave a sure index of strong mental irritation; and in his manner of speaking there was something indicative of the nervousness of a delicate mind, wrought upon by the violence of passion. He flushed as he spoke, and the gloom at intervals gave way to flashes of fever lighting up his eye. He leaned against the back of the sofa, as if he tried to obtain self-possession by his bodily repose. D'Arcy exhibited a different character: his countenance scarcely betrayed his mind; his features had much play, but they were strictly under command. There was not the same candour evinced by them, or, perhaps, D'Arcy's was a more worn countenance,—one as if it had lived to be the index of so many feelings, that it disdained to disclose them now. There was something very fine, nevertheless, in his brow, and altogether if you were inclined to distrust the man, it would not be for a small stake; and if there was any thing villainous about him, Schiller's description might be given of it: 'Die Schande nimmt ab mit dem wachsenden Sünde.' But D'Arcy was harassed, and out of humour; we have no right to quote Schiller because a man looks ill, and finds his house disagreeably invaded at five in the morning. D'Arcy was always handsome, but yet he did not always look so. The more he was known, the handsomer he was considered; but he did not universally please nevertheless, because his cold and somewhat sardonic expression was apt to offend, before he felt a wish to please. When he aimed at doing so, he never failed. 'I have seen the Woodvilles to-night,' said Lord Stanmore, abruptly. 'So have I,' replied D'Arcy. Lord Stanmore continued, without heeding the interruption, 'and I have done all I can to prevent that young girl falling a prey to you. I know you well D'Arcy, and for once in my life I choose to tell you, that I consider that you are behaving ill,—shamefully ill!' 'What do you mean?' cried D'Arcy, looking up in displeased astonishment. 'What I say!—that I have warned Violet Woodville against you,—that I have told her your heart is professedly another woman's, and I have supplicated her not to become the mistress of George D'Arcy!' D'Arcy coloured, and started from his chair; while he exclaimed in a tone of passion: 'I should like to know what has given you the right to interfere thus in my concerns? Not our friendship, certainly.' 'I will tell you why; because I loved her,—because I loved Violet Woodville, and, therefore, I did not choose to see her crushed by you: and, let me tell you, if you had had the smallest portion of generosity in your soul,—you would have hesitated in your determination to seduce so sweet a creature. You know her, and therefore you have not to learn that she is one so faultless, that no one but a villain could successfully act the part you seek to play!' 'And yourself?' cried D'Arcy, sternly and interrogatively. 'No,' answered Lord Stanmore with firmness; 'no, I have tried—I may have wished it once; but as I have learnt to know her infinite purity, I have shrunk from a pursuit become, I think, dishonourable, when the object is one so much too

worthy. However, I am convinced I had no chance of succeeding. She does not love me; but you have power over her, for you she does love. Use this power as you may, D'Arcy, and I say you are a villain!' 'Are you come here at five in the morning to pick a quarrel with me, Lord Stanmore?' 'I am not; but that is as you choose.' 'You well know,' said D'Arcy, 'that one man has no pretext for addressing another as you have addressed me. I was not aware,' he continued, 'his countenance assuming the withering coldness which made it at times almost hateful, 'I was not aware that you were so very warm an admirer of Miss Woodville. Am I to understand by this tirade that your views are simply Platonic, or that I have interfered most unfortunately with a matrimonial speculation of your lordship's?' Lord Stanmore's colour rose as he replied, 'I neither regard your rage nor your cold-blooded sneers. What I do consider, is that poor girl who believes in your attachment, and who may be ruined by the excessive art of one who actually does not care for her!' 'And you have cared,' said D'Arcy, tauntingly. 'I have—there you are right; and I think it was not the office of a friend to supplant me where he knew I should most feel it.' 'Neither was it the office of a friend to go and basely betray my errors, out of jealousy, to one whom you yourself allow to have preferred me.' 'You are not my friend,' said Lord Stanmore, hastily; 'that is past. All I aim at now is, if possible, to preserve a being whom I have adored, and whose guileless character has made an impression on me which her beauty could not have done. Yes, D'Arcy, I love her; and if you had not come like a devil between me and my happiness, she would have been happy too; for if it had not been for you, Violet Woodville would have loved me:—and proclaim it to the world if you choose, I would have made her my wife: and do you think that now I will sit tamely by, and witness your false professions of affection, in return for which that innocent one will barter her whole existence; and, instead of my wife, see her be, some day, your neglected mistress? The blessed alternative you will have brought her to! Do you think, I say, I would stand by and know all this, and not warn her of the fate that hangs over her?' While Lord Stanmore spoke, D'Arcy's countenance changed; he appeared to reflect, and at length he slowly exclaimed, in a softened tone, 'And you have loved her even unto this!'

We add two or three clever and true snatches of observation:—

"A walk by moonlight is a very pleasant thing with a lover, and a lover, too, just beginning to bud into one. A budding lover is a much pleasanter thing than a full blown one, very often; there is so much trouble attendant upon the latter sort."

"Violet now seldom thought of Lord Stanmore: she had liked him, but D'Arcy interested her. Ah! what a difference there is in the meaning of those two words! Interest another in your favour, be it man or woman, and much may follow,—to please merely, is to do nothing. And is it not true that there are some people who please, but who cannot interest? There is a wide distinction between pleasing exceedingly, and interesting exceedingly,—either may happen, and neither in connexion."

At least there is one word in the English language that has music in its sound,—Love! Who can pronounce it, and not say it is a gentle word, soft and beautiful as its meaning? Breathe it how, and



when, and where you will, is it not always a touching word? and, should it be uttered by one whose affection we delight in, it is a dream of bliss to hear it, and one that will be unforgotten while every other joy lies buried beneath the sorrow that falls us not: covering with its heavy mantle the happy hours that have gone before. But, as first uttered by a loved being, the memory of that word will endure."

We have not forestalled the story, which carries its own lesson with it. It is an accurate picture of to-day—of to-day, so wanting in high moral purpose—so deficient in true knowledge, so selfish, and so miserable. We might have found many faults, for the language is careless, and the last episode of Mrs. Harcourt might well have been spared; but we have preferred dwelling on the great talent displayed by the writer. "Violet" is the most striking and the most original work that has for some time embodied satire in a deeply interesting narrative.

*A Description of the Residence of Sir John Soane, Architect.* Written by himself. Folio. Pp. 109. Not published. Only 150 copies printed. [A very limited edition in French also.]

THOUGH only a few copies of this beautiful work have been printed, and presented by the author to friends, we trust we shall not indiscreetly invade that privacy, by offering some account of the volume to the public at large. When we consider that the museum it describes is the munificent gift\* of the individual possessor to the country, and think on the costliness and rare value of the patriotic contribution to the arts and sciences of England, we feel that it involves a subject of too universal interest to be altogether confined to the shelves of the favoured few whom the writer has honoured by its presentation; and that even such meagre illustration of it as we can supply in our page will be most welcome to the reading world. Sorry we are that we can afford no notion of its graphic embellishments, which are numerous and highly pleasing; and that one, not the least so, which fronts the title-page, viz. an engraving by Charles Turner, after Chantrey's admirable bust of Sir John Soane, and a fine likeness of him, is beyond the sphere of our illustration, by cuts or otherwise. Of the design of the volume itself, the author says—

"One of the objects I had in view was to shew, partly by graphic illustrations, the union and close connexion between painting, sculpture, and architecture,—music and poetry;—another purpose is, the natural desire of leaving these works of art subject as little as possible to the chance of their being removed from the positions relatively assigned to them; they having been arranged as studies for my own mind, and being intended similarly to benefit the artists of future generations. This Description, however, was chiefly written for the ad-

\* The House and Museum contain works of the following artists:—R. Adam, Archelous of Prienne, E. H. Raily, Banks, Barrett, Birch, Bird, Bourgeois, Boydell, Calcott, Canletti, Chambers, Chantrey, Clerisseau, Collins, R. Conway, Mrs. Coway, Danby, Geo. Dance, N. Dance, Daniel, Miss M. Denman, Donatello, Downman, Durro, Eastlake, Flaxman, Fuseli, Gandy, Garrard, Ghiberti, Giovanni di Bologna, Girolamo, Girometti, Giulio Clovio, Gons, Gott, Hamilton, Hilton, Hodges, Hogarth, Howard, Ince, Jackson, G. Jones, Inigo Jones, Sir T. Lawrence, Luigi Mayer, Marchant, Mathews, Merhews, Michael Angelo, Moore, Mortimer, Mudgie, Nolkeken, Owen, Panini, Perronet, Pickler, Piranesi, Mrs. Pope, Raphael, Sir J. Reynolds, Rossi, Roubiliac, Rubens, Ruysdael, Rybrach, Scheemaker, Scott, Sievier, Tassie, Thornhill, Turner, Turnell, Van Assen, Veronesi, Ward, Watts, H. Webster, J. Webster, Wedgwood, Westall, Westmacott, Wheatley, Wood, Walcott ("Peter Pindar"), Woollett, Sir C. Wren, Wyon, Zuccherelli, and Zucchi.

vantage of the architect, who will, I trust, become sensible, from the examination to which it lends him, that every work of art which awakens his ideas, stimulates his industry, purifies his taste, or gives solidity to his judgment, is to him a valuable instructor; and may probably lay the foundation of that knowledge, which may enable him to become an ornament and benefit to his country. To secure a lasting reputation, however, let him constantly remember, throughout the entire practice of his profession, that, like the virtue of Caesar's wife, his integrity must be not only pure, but unsuspected. To render the following pages more pleasing and attractive to young minds, and to increase their love for the fine arts, pictorial and poetical remarks on some of the most prominent features of the house and museum, written by a lady, have been embodied with my own description."

Referring to what is well called "the Tivoli Recess," from its memorials of that sweet spot, the writer says well, when speaking of his early dreams of fame,—

"With such scenes before him, at that happy period of existence when 'all things charm, for life itself is new,' unquestionably many a day-dream awoke the imagination of the enthusiastic architect, which has left the impression of its sweetness to this very hour. The spells of passion and the lures of folly vanish before the exorcism of time and experience; but the benignant witchery of intellectual attraction is binding to the verge of existence. Remembering those emotions of astonishment and delight awakened at Tivoli, undoubtedly he intended, by the name given to this spot, and the beautiful objects here assembled, to recall his past sensations and express his confirmed admiration."

There are thirty-eight plates, and about a dozen vignettes, representing various apartments and curious articles in the museum; the whole executed in a masterly style, among which the Belzoni sarcophagus and its adjunct are particularly attractive. But the interior arrangements of the place itself can only be appreciated by ocular inspection: it is an impressive and magic scene, where exquisite products of human talent and genius (ancient and modern) are disposed in a manner which adds to their effect on the imagination, and cannot be conceived without seeing them, however skilfully the painter and engraver may have copied their outlines and features.

The account of the picture-room will serve to shew how the whole is done:—

"Returning to the corridor, you enter the picture-room; the ceiling of which is most elaborately enriched with plaster ornaments in compartments, forming arched canopies. On the north and west sides of this room are cabinets; and on the south are movable planes, with sufficient space between for pictures. By this arrangement, the small space of thirteen feet eight inches in length, twelve feet four inches in breadth, and nineteen feet six inches in height, which are the actual dimensions of this room, is rendered capable of containing as many pictures as a gallery of the same height, twenty feet broad and forty-five feet long. Another advantage of this arrangement is, that the pictures may be seen under different angles of vision. The pedestals on the sides of this room are filled with books, chiefly relating to the fine arts: the four ivory chairs were formerly in the possession of Tipoo Saib. The cabinets on the north side contain four prints of buildings in Rome, by Piranesi, comprising the Arch of Septimius Severus, the Pantheon,

the Tomb of Cecilia Metella, and the Arch of Constantine, presented to me by that great artist; the Passage-Point, an Italian composition, by A. W. Calcott, R.A.; a Portrait of a Lady, by John Jackson, R.A.; and two Studies of Heads for the Cartoons, by Raphael. [Leo X. ordered Raffaele de Urbino to paint twelve cartoons, in order to have twelve pieces of tapestry wove after them, which were accordingly finished in Flanders. Seven of the cartoons were brought to England, and the other five remained in the family of the weaver for several generations: the few heads that could be saved out of them were brought to England about the year 1720, and sold to Mr. Jonathan Richardson, senior. They have been compared upon the spot with those at Hampton Court, and the best judges are of opinion that these are by the same hand.] Here are also the series of eight pictures of the Rake's Progress, from Hogarth's inimitable pencil, formerly the property of the late Alderman Beckford; an original composition from ancient ruins, by Joseph Gandy, A.R.A.; a scene in the Merchant of Venice, by Francis Danby, R.A.; and Comus listening to the Incantations of Circe, by Henry Howard, R.A.:

"I have oft heard  
My mother Circe, with the Sirens three,  
Amidst the flowery-kirtled Naiades  
Culling their potent herbs and baleful drugs,  
Who, as they sung, would take the prison'd soul  
And lap it in Elysium. Scylla wept,  
And chid her barking waves into attention;  
And fell Charybdis murmur'd soft applause."

The picture from Shakespeare's Merchant of Venice is the beautiful moonlight scene between Lorenzo and Jessica:

"How sweet the moonlight sleeps upon this bank!  
Here will we sit, and let the sounds of music  
Creep in our ears."

On the doors of this cabinet are two of the series of original drawings of the Ruins at Paestum, by Piranesi, from which he made the engravings; two views in India, by William Hodges, R.A.; and two pictures of an Election (the Entertainment and Canvassing), by Hogarth. On the east end are three designs for the Proscenium of a Theatre; a picture of Poultry, by the late Sir Francis Bourgeois; six drawings of Ruins, by Clerisseau; and Milton dictating to his Daughters, by Richard Westall, R.A. On the right of this picture is a view of the Piazza San Marco, and on the left a view of the Rialto: both these Venetian scenes are by Canaletti, and were formerly in the collection of the Earl of Bute. Below these pictures is a magnificent view in Venice, also by Canaletti. On the outer side of the movable planes on the south side of the room are eight more of the views of the Ruins of Temples at Paestum, by Piranesi; and the other two pictures of the Election (Polling and Chairing), by Hogarth. On the interior surface are views of the National Debt Office, in the Old Jewry; a view of a design for the State Paper Office; a design for a grand western entrance into the metropolis; views of various offices and other parts of the Bank of England; of a design for a triumphal arch, forming the entrance into Downing Street; of the new Masonic Hall; of one of the offices in the Bank of England, in progress; of the principal rooms in this house and museum; designs for various buildings erected by me in different parts of Great Britain, and in the cities of London and Westminster; and a design for a Royal Palace, made at Rome in 1779. In composing this design, I laboured to avail myself of the advantages arising from the contemplation of the remains of the great works of the ancients, as well as of the observations and practice of the moderns.

With these feelings, I endeavoured to combine magnificence with utility, and intricacy with variety and novelty. Vignola's celebrated palace at Caprarola suggested the general outline of the plan; and the villa of Adrian at Tivoli, the palace of Diocletian at Spalatro, the immense remains of the imperial palace of the Cæsars in Rome, the baths of the Romans, and the interior of the Pantheon, with its superb portico by Agrippa—exemplars of magnificence, intricacy, variety, and movement, uniting all the intellectual delights of classical architecture,—were objects calculated to call forth my best energies. The portico is copied from that of the Pantheon: in the centre of the building is a dome, under which is another, of a smaller diameter, leaving a space for the admission of light, after the manner of the 'Lumière mystérieuse,' so successfully practised in the great church of the Invalids, and other buildings in France. The decoration of this interior dome, by aid of appropriate machinery, is designed to form a complete representation of the solar system. In making this design, besides the advantages already mentioned, I had frequent opportunities of shewing the drawings, in their progressive state, to my honoured and lamented patron, the late Lord Camelford, then Mr. Thomas Pitt, and of making such alterations in them as were pointed out by the classical taste and profound architectural knowledge of that accomplished nobleman. This palace was proposed to have been erected in Hyde Park, with an extensive series of magnificent hotels, relieved by occasional breaks, bounding the park, improving its general appearance, and providing an ample fund to defray all the expense attending the completion of the design. Among the designs above enumerated are also some Dreams in the evening of life, and Architectural Visions of early fancy—wild effusions of a mind glowing with an ardent and enthusiastic desire to attain professional distinction, in the gay morning of youth: Palmyra and Baalbec suggested the idea of the arrangement in this assemblage, which is enriched with the funeral procession of the immortal Nelson. Some of the buildings represented by these views have been noticed in various critical works: among which, the 'Pursuits of Literature' has the following:

'The arch Palladian, and the Parian stone,  
The pride of Chambers and of Soane.'

In the "Breakfast-room" is noticed a MS. of Giulio Clovio, which is described in a way interesting to the artist and antiquary.

"The last-mentioned MS. is a commentary in Latin on the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans, by Cardinal Grimani, which has, it is believed, never been printed. It is richly adorned with exquisite paintings by Georgio Giulio Clovio, who was born at Croatia in 1498, and died in 1578, having studied under Girolamo dai Libri and Giulio Romano. His celebrity throughout all the countries of Europe as a painter in miniature of history and portraits, caused his works to be sought for by the kings and princes of his time. Raffaele held his figures in high admiration, placing them always before him; and Vasari ranks him with Titian and Michael Angelo. In 1733 Bonde printed a curious volume entitled *Thesaurus Artis Pictoriæ, ex unius Julii Clovii, clari admodum Pictoris, Operibus depromp-*

\* "Two celebrated architects. The professional knowledge of Sir W. Chambers, knt. (of most heroic memory), was profound and substantial. Mr. Soane has more fancy and airiness of design, and is certainly a man of information and ingenuity; but he indulges himself a little too much in extravaganzas and whims: see the *Bank's Pursuits of Literature*, edit. 14. p. 355.

tus, in which he extols Clovio above all praise, and says of him that most of his very illustrious works of art are not less curiously wrought than those by Albert Durer himself. Few only of the productions of his pencil have found their way into this country."

Again, of the famous sarcophagus of Beban el Malook, near Gournou, we are told:—

"Plate XXII. represents the sarcophagus in its present state; and Plate XXIII. shews many of the details. Fig. 1, the plan of the interior surface of the bottom of the sarcophagus; figs. 2 and 3, elevations of the two ends; figs. 4 and 5, the interior surface of the two ends; figs. 6 and 7, the interior surface of the two sides; and figs. 8 and 9, the exterior surface. With no inconsiderable expense and difficulty, this unique monument was transported from Egypt to England, and placed in the British Museum, to the trustees of which it was offered for 2000*l*. After much negotiation, the idea of purchasing it for our national collection was relinquished, when it was offered to me at the same price, which offer I readily accepted, and shortly after had the pleasure of seeing this splendid relic of Egyptian magnificence safely deposited in a conspicuous part of my Museum. \* \* \*

"The more we contemplate this interesting memorial of antiquity and regal magnificence, the more our sense of its value rises in the mind. We consider the beauty and scarcity of the material—its transparency—the rich and mellow hue—the largeness of the original block, the adaptation of its form to the purpose intended, which was unquestionably to receive a body enclosed in numerous wrappings and doubly cased, according to the custom of the Egyptians. We then examine the carving of innumerable figures, doubting not that the history of a life fraught with the most striking events is here recorded,—gaze on the beautiful features of the female form sculptured at the bottom of the sarcophagus, and conclude it to be that of the goddess Isis, the elongated eye and the delicate foot closely resembling those drawings of her given by the learned Montfaucon,—and repeat the exclamation of Belzoni, when he declared that the day on which he found this treasure was the happiest of his life. \* \* \*

"If in the hour of mid-day splendour the sarcophagus appears only a superb and suitable finish to the works of art by which it is surrounded, and more calculated to complete the impression conveyed by the whole, than to claim exclusive and individual preference, it should be viewed by lamplight also. Seen by this medium, every surrounding object, however admirable in itself, becomes subservient to the sarcophagus—the ancient, the splendid, the wonderful sarcophagus is before us, and all else are but accessories to its dignity and grandeur: a mingled sense of awe, admiration, and delight, pervades our faculties, and is even oppressive in its intensity, yet endearing in its associations; for sweet and tender memories unite us to the grave. Deep masses of shadow, faint gleams that rise like ignes fatui from the adjoining crypt, lights that shine like lustrous halos round marble heads, others more vague and indistinct, yet beautiful in their revealings, present appearances beheld as in a dream of the poet's elysium; and without enlarging the objects, the scene itself, under this artificial illumination, appears considerably expanded. By degrees this space becomes peopled—figure after figure emerges from the crypt and corridors, where they had loitered in the gloom: they assemble round the sarcophagus, which sheds from within a pale, unearthly light upon the

silent awe-struck beings that surround it. Fair and lovely they appear, the sons and daughters of a high-born race, exempt from the common evils of life, but awake to all its generous sensibilities and higher perceptions. Pensive is every countenance, and soft is every falling footstep; yet in gentle accents many a voice breathes thanks to him who hath rolled back the current of time to shew them glorious visions of the past, yet taught them to feel, even in the hour of pleasure itself, that

"The paths of glory lead but to the grave."

We may notice, that the portion we have just quoted, and others, are from the pen of a distinguished literary lady, whose initials, B.H., point to one often justly praised in the *Literary Gazette*, the wife of an eminent artist.

We cannot enumerate the exquisite gems, intaglios, medals, &c. &c. which enrich Sir John Soane's collection, the list of which occupies ten pages; but, considering how much he has done, in a princely spirit, to obtain the applause of a grateful world, we may say that the most interesting and valuable even of these treasures are the medals struck to his honour, and the beautiful productions of art consecrated to his individual character as an artist of the highest genius, and a man whose great public munificence, as well as great public works, have given him an immortal fame.

*The Angler's Rambles.* By Edward Jesse, Esq. F.L.S. author of "Gleanings in Natural History." 8vo. Pp. 316. London, 1836. J. Von Voorst.

Our readers are well acquainted with Mr. Jesse, and the present work is in his own peculiar and pleasant style. There is the same love of nature, the same good feeling, and the same variety of anecdote, told in his own lively manner. We shall at once proceed to a miscellaneous selection.

*Patience in Anglers.*—"Patience, certainly, is a necessary qualification in an angler. Indeed I remember a Thames fisherman, who, on my evincing some displeasure at not having the good sport he had promised me, very coolly told me that I should never make a good angler if I could not fish a whole day in a bucket of water without shewing impatience. \* \* \*

A retired surgeon, of the name of Wood, is still talked of at Hampton, as having braved the coldest weather in winter in order to follow his favourite diversion. He would get up before it was light, have his breakfast, and fish till it was dark, at a time when the wet was freezing on his line. He had always, however, a hot dinner brought to the boat, which must have kept him from starving in both senses."

*Amateurs of Thames Trout.*—"They were so alive to the merits of these fish, that on leaving Hampton they enjoined the worthy host of the Red Lion, at whose house they had taken up their quarters, to send to them in London, the first fine trout he could procure. He was desired not to mind the expense, but to despatch the fish in a post-chaise, so that it might arrive in time for dinner. The host had soon afterwards an opportunity of procuring a remarkably large and beautiful trout, which was duly sent in a post-chaise to Mr. W—'s house in Spring Gardens. It arrived at five o'clock, and was immediately taken to his sitting-room. After admiring it for a short time, he sent an invitation to his friend Mr. T—, to come and partake of it at six o'clock, and described the appearance and beauty of the fish. He received an answer from his friend, acquainting him that he was dying from a

sudden attack of gout, but that it would be a great satisfaction to him if he could see the fish, provided it would not be injured by being conveyed to his house for that purpose. The trout was accordingly sent—Mr. T.—— feasted his eyes upon it, and soon afterwards closed them for ever."

*Anecdotes of the late Dr. Hunt.*—"It was the ambition of his life to fill up the whole of the large chancel window of his parish church with old stained glass. As he was too poor to purchase it, he begged, borrowed, and purloined it whenever he had an opportunity, and thus by degrees, he left to his parishioners one of the finest windows in the kingdom. Whenever the doctor found a solitary piece or two of old glass in the window of some small country church, he endeavoured to procure it in some way or other. In one of his excursions, he had taken some trifling bits, as he thought, unperceived, but was followed and seized for the theft, the glass being found safely deposited in his coat pocket. He would have been committed for trial, had not his friends interfered and rescued him from his unpleasant predicament by restoring the glass to its former situation. He, however, would never admit that he had acted wrong in this respect. The doctor's great ambition was to have a stall in some cathedral, where he might enjoy his favourite music; and he always thought that his friend, the Bishop of L——, would gratify his wishes. On one occasion he gave his lordship the following hint. He had procured the bishop some cheese for which his parish was famous, and on being asked how he should be paid for them, the worthy vicar answered, 'by instalments, if your lordship pleases.' The hint, however, was never taken; and after having for forty years, read prayers himself five times every Sunday, and preached four (*mirabile dictu*, but it is, nevertheless, perfectly true), in the several churches attached to his extensive parish, he resigned his living, and retired with a very moderate competence to a cathedral town, where he could daily hear the music he delighted in so much."

*A Crow's Second Marriage.*—"He added, that a remarkable instance was stated to him by one of the light-keepers, which occurred while he resided on the main. A pair of crows had for some years frequented a spot in that quarter, of that species which is seen on the Irish coast; they are gray at the back of the head and neck, and the pair alluded to, were the only birds of that description ever seen on the rock; the light-keeper shot one of them, and her surviving partner was missed for three or four days, when she returned with another crow precisely of the same kind as the one shot, which left no question in the opinion of those in the neighbourhood, but that the bird had been over to the Irish coast for a new partner."

*Remedy against Ghosts.*—"The room into which I was shewn savoured strongly of ghosts. Indeed, my companion had previously told me that the old mansion was supposed to be haunted, and that one or two of the more timid daniels had actually been confronted by some deceased member of the Blount family. Lady Blount had, however, declared that she would dismiss from her service any servant who should be so unfortunate as to see a ghost, and since that time not one had made its appearance."

*Two Ladies of the Old School.*—"One of them, Lady Blount, was the widow of a baronet; and the other, Miss Barbara Newton, was her maiden sister. When I first visited them,

they might each be rather more than seventy years of age. Tall and somewhat stiff in their persons, with formal and rather ceremonious manners, observing the strictest etiquette, not only with their visitors, but with each other, they were, nevertheless, unbounded in their hospitality, and dispensed their bounties with an unsparing hand. Their dress was the very picture of neatness and propriety. I can see them now in their large full caps beautifully plaited and as white as snow, with ruffs round their necks, and white kerchiefs pinned round their shoulders, and covering part of their stiff chocolate-coloured silk gowns. These were made with long waists and short sleeves, having large ruffles attached to them above the elbows. A huge gold watch was appended to the girdle, and they wore rather high-heeled shoes, with little formal buckles attached to them. Their hair was perfectly white, and was disposed in what may be called sausage curls beneath the cap. They wore on their arms a sort of mitten, or gloves with half of the fingers cut off, which enabled them to ply their needles the more readily. Such was the dress of these worthy ladies, who (seated in large arm-chairs on each side of the fire-place, with a small table near them on which their work-baskets were placed) were ready to receive any visitors who might call upon them. The arrival of any one, was the signal for the servants to bring in a well-furnished tray of refreshments, of which the guests were expected to partake, as their omitting to do so would have been thought to detract from the hospitality of the mansion. Kind old ladies! Sometimes their home-made wine was recommended, or, if the weather was cold, a glass of old Madeira. Chicken, pies, and brawn, also made their appearance, with a huge cake, and fruit of various kinds, all arranged with the utmost propriety."

We have made our extracts from the more general matter, but we must mention to our friends of the angle, that there is much recondite information touching rods, lines, baits, &c. Again, we bid Mr. Jesse heartily farewell; and beg leave to say that we do not desire a more agreeable or a more intelligent companion. The volume is ornamented with some very clever and pretty woodcuts.

*Journal of a Residence in Norway, during the Years 1834, 1835, and 1836; made with a View to Inquire into the Moral and Political Economy of that Country, and the Condition of its Inhabitants.* By Samuel Laing, Esq. 8vo. pp. 482. London, 1836. Longman and Co.

THOUGH we have Von Buch, Dr. Clarke, and several more recent writers (with various views and pursuits) on Norway, antiquaries, naturalists, Dr. Syntaxes, sportsmen, and mere tourists, we must say that we have been much gratified and informed by this volume, the result of two years' residence and much observation upon the country. Mr. Laing is a Liberal in his opinions, and, in a few cases, employs a freedom of expression which may displease some; but he is a clear-headed, sound, and practical, as well as theoretical, observer, and not only in his statements with respect to Norway, but in his application of them to England, displays a degree of intelligence and information which must recommend his work to very general favour and respect. From such a volume statistics and politics could not be banished; on the contrary, they are its elements: but we are free to confess that both are much relieved from their usual sterility and

acerbity, and convey to us a mass of matter well calculated to make us chew the cud of reflection upon them, if not even to indulge in the sweet and bitter fancies of more imaginary rumination.

The Norwegian people, says the author, "are the most interesting and singular group of people in Europe. They live under ancient laws and social arrangements totally different in principle from those which regulate society and property in the feudally constituted countries; and among them, perhaps, may be traced the germ of all the free institutions which distinguish the British constitution at the present day." We could hardly have taken his word for it till we had read to the close of his volume; and now we confess, in the lawyer's phraseology, we think he has "shewn cause," though, with regard to his politics of Poland, we must, at the same time, consider them to be extraneous as well as commonplace. But, to work with the Journal, so that it may save us criticism, and speak for itself, though it must be in a very desultory fashion.

Distillation of spirit from potatoes is a Norwegian staple; and Mr. L. remarks of the root, &c. "The potatoes all over the country carry a white flower. In whole fields not one with red or purple flowers will be seen. I do not know if this be a better or worse variety of the plant, or whether it be not the effect of the climate, which seems to have a tendency to produce every thing in the albino style. Horses, cattle, even children, appear white varieties of their species."

Another part of domestic economy is thus told:—

"Every man may build a mill who chooses to do so. In the glens about Laurgaard, every little farm had its own little mill. Oats when ground are not first shelled as in Scotland, that is, cleared of the outer husk, but, after being strongly kiln-dried, the grain, husks and all, is made into meal. This meal is as fine almost as wheat flour, the mill stones being of very hard gneiss, sitting very close upon each other, and going round very swiftly. No doubt this is a much more economical plan than ours; for in the husks, or sides, which we take off in Scotland, there is left much nutriment; as appears from the jelly called sowens, obtained by steeping them in water. This is lost in many parts of Scotland entirely, the husks being put on the fire to kiln-dry other grain. The farmer here gets back from the mill the same weight he sends to it. Very good bread is baked of this meal; flat cakes, covering the bottom of a girdle, or frying-pan, and as thin as a sheet of paper, being put on in a nearly fluid state, and when used at table, they are made crisp by being warmed a little. They are not equal certainly to our best oatmeal cakes found in gentlemen's families; for the grain, I suspect, cannot yield such meal. It is better, however, than is commonly used by the people in our northern counties, owing principally, I think, to its being better baked. This mode of grinding and baking makes intelligible the use of bread of the bark of the fir-tree, in years of scarcity. Its inner rind, kiln-dried, may undoubtedly be ground, along with the husks and grain, and add to the quantity of meal; it may even be nutritious. I had previously been rather disposed to doubt the fact, and to laugh at the idea of a traveller dining on saw-dust pudding and timber bread. In years of scarcity, however, this use of fir-bark is more extensive than is generally supposed. The present dilapidated state of the forests, in districts which formerly supplied wood for exportation, is



ascribed to the great destruction of young trees for this purpose in the year 1812."

The annexed are other notes upon the country, which, though we do not class them, will be read as peculiar illustrations of its aspects:—

"The markets of Norway and Sweden are filled, no doubt, in winter with the greatest abundance and variety of game. But we forget the extent of the country, and that there are but few markets to fill, which, at that season, are supplied, from the most remote distances, by peasants coming on other business. One bird killed in every ten square miles of country would be sufficient. In this country, man and dog would require Jack the Giant-killer's seven-league boots to make any thing of shooting in any one district. The country people kill this game in the winter, when the birds are driven by the snow to seek food and shelter in the low grounds. There is a singular scarcity of birds, in fact, of all kinds in Norway. Magpies are the most numerous; and seem favoured by the country people, as they hop about in a half tame state. The Royston crow and the swallow are common; but the lark, the linnet, the blackbird, the thrush, the robin, and all our old acquaintances of the woods and fields, even our town acquaintance, the sparrow, are not at home here. I have seen or heard more of these in travelling one mile in England, than in all the space I have traversed in Norway. I suspect there may be spring frosts, which spoil the eggs and prevent the hatching and increase of the small birds."

"One of the English gentlemen whom I met at Jerkin gave me a fishing-rod, with which he did not wish to be encumbered. He had caught trout until he was actually tired, having killed above three hundred in a very few days. Having fortunately brought with me some flies and tackle, I went out this forenoon, while my pony was resting after yesterday's fatigue, to try my skill. Although I never fished trout before, I caught above six dozen between breakfast and dinner: this will give some idea of what fishing is in Norway. They were small, the largest not exceeding a foot in length; but the landlord brought in some as big as salmon, caught in a lake on the Fjelde. I had no idea of even grilse or sea trout attaining such a size. I have seen ordinary sea trout of three or four pounds weight, but these exceed eighteen pounds. Fly-fishing appears not known here, and I imagine it is altogether an English art. The people had heard of the success of English sportsmen at Jerkin; and one cannot make a more acceptable present to them than fishing flies and hooks, properly mounted."

Within doors, "the floors of rooms in Norway, and, I believe, in Sweden also, are, at least once a-week, strewn over with the green tops of the fir or juniper. On a white well-scoured deal floor, the lively green specks have a pretty effect. The use is the same as that of the yellow sand, with which our housewives sprinkle their floors. It prevents the mud on the shoes from adhering to and soiling the wood. The gathering and selling these green juniper buds is a sort of trade for poor old people about the towns, just as selling yellow sand is with us. At funerals, the road into the churchyard and to the grave is strewn with these green sprigs."

(To be continued.)

#### VARIETIES.

*Statue of George III.*—We are persuaded that there is not one of our readers who will

not feel the strongest disgust and abhorrence at the cowardly and malignant act which is thus related in the *Morning Chronicle* of yesterday: "This beautiful statue, so recently erected, has already undergone that mark of ill taste and want of due appreciation of the beautiful in art, which seems to be the fate of every work of any excellence which is exposed to public view in England, until the Vandal feeling has become a reproach of peculiar application to this country. On Wednesday night some miserable creature availed himself of the darkness to discharge, in cowardly concealment, an inky fluid over the stone pedestal on which the statue is placed; which, though it has done no permanent injury, will for a time present an unsightly appearance, and certainly is an insult to the better feelings of the public and to the character of the country. A great number of persons were drawn round the statue during yesterday, attracted by the unsightly appearance which this mean outrage has given to it; and among all parties it was gratifying to hear but one sentiment expressed of contempt for the poor creature who could be guilty of so wretched a piece of mischief."

*Prize Medals.*—Henry Braddon, Esq., has placed at the disposal of the council of the Vernham Philosophical Society of London, a handsome silver medal for the best essay on the formation of minerals, particularly those of Cornwall. The founder and president, Professor Dewhurst, has offered a similar medal for the best essay on phenology.

*Benefit of Clergy.*—A man charged with burglary, proved that, at the time alleged, he was in a distant church, listening to the sermon of a celebrated preacher, and was acquitted accordingly. "That," said another, "explains what I never before understood—the benefit of clergy."

*Law.*—There are no fewer than 461 barristers who attend and profess to practice in the Court of King's Bench; exclusively of 25 king's counsel, who attend that court, and 18 sergeants!

#### LITERARY NOVELTIES.

Mr. Jacob Jones announces for publication in the beginning of the ensuing month, the third edition of "The Anglo-polish Harp; Scenes from Longinus, and other Poems," with emendations and additions.

#### In the Press.

A Statistical Survey of the British Islands' Fisheries, by R. Rouleux Pearce, Esq.—A Treatise on the Natural History and Management of the Phæna Bombyx Mori, or common Silkworm, with plates.—An Essay on the Objects, Advantages, and Pleasures of Astronomy; exhibiting the Power, Wisdom, and Goodness of God, in the Formation of the Universe, with Illustrations, by Henry William Dewhurst, Esq., F.E.S.L., Professor of Anatomy, &c.

#### LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

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"Y. S." should request his newsmen to fold his *Literary Gazette* more carefully; the fault is the newsmen's.

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